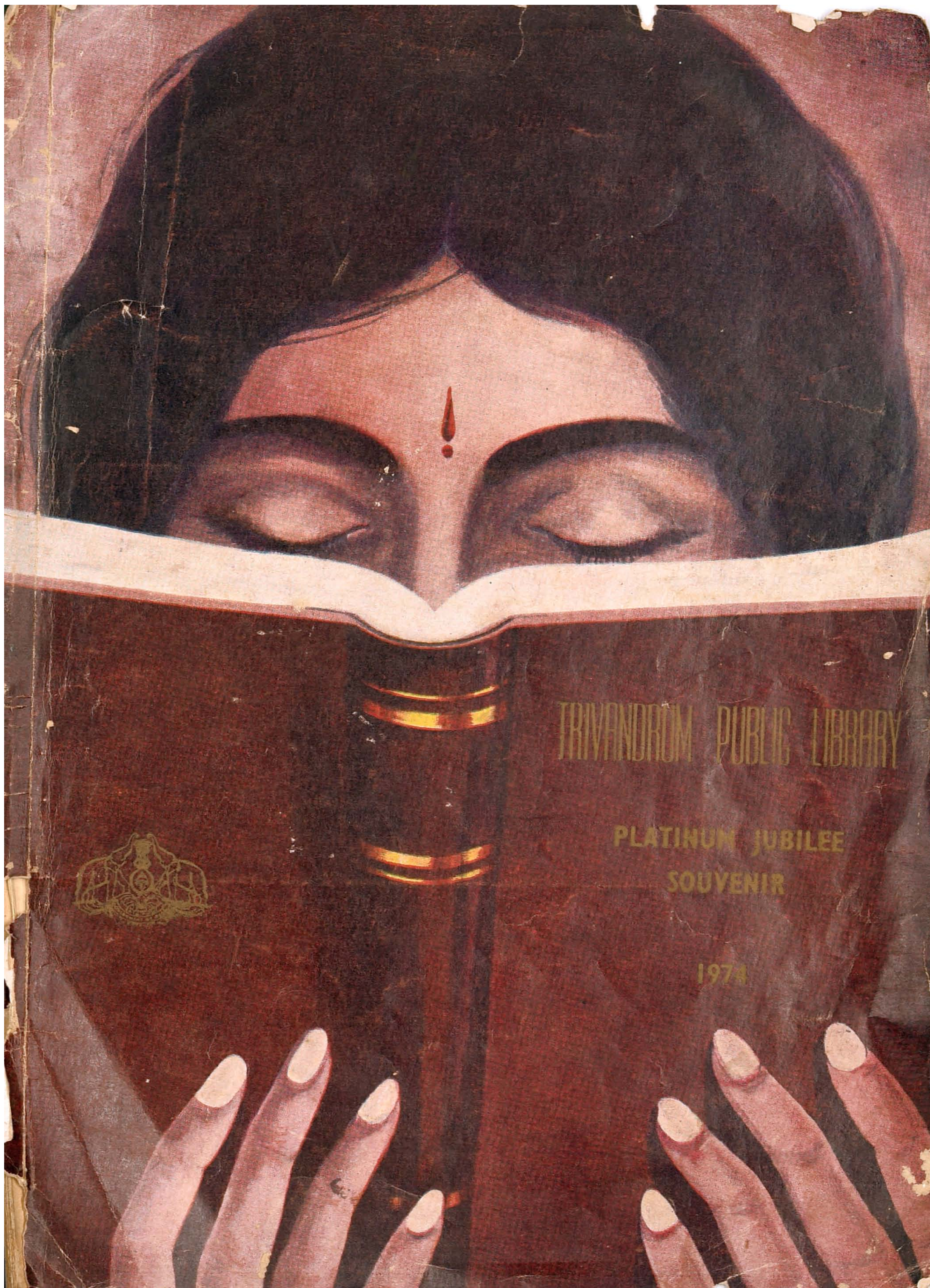

TRIVANDRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLATINUM JUBILEE
SOUVENIR
1974

With the compliments of:-

P. V. VARGHESE
State Librarian
Government of Kerala
Trivandrum



SRI SWATHI THIRUNAL
Maharaja of Travancore
(1812-1847)

FOUNDER PATRON OF THE TRIVANDRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY

TRIVANDRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY

presents

PLATINUM
JUBILEE
SOUVENIR

1974

Edited by
Rosscote Krishna Pillai

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PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE

My father taught me to love books very early in life. The wealth of knowledge and companionship which they provide crosses all barriers of time and space.

Not everyone can have his own library. Therefore it is important to have good public libraries, which should be regarded as national assets.

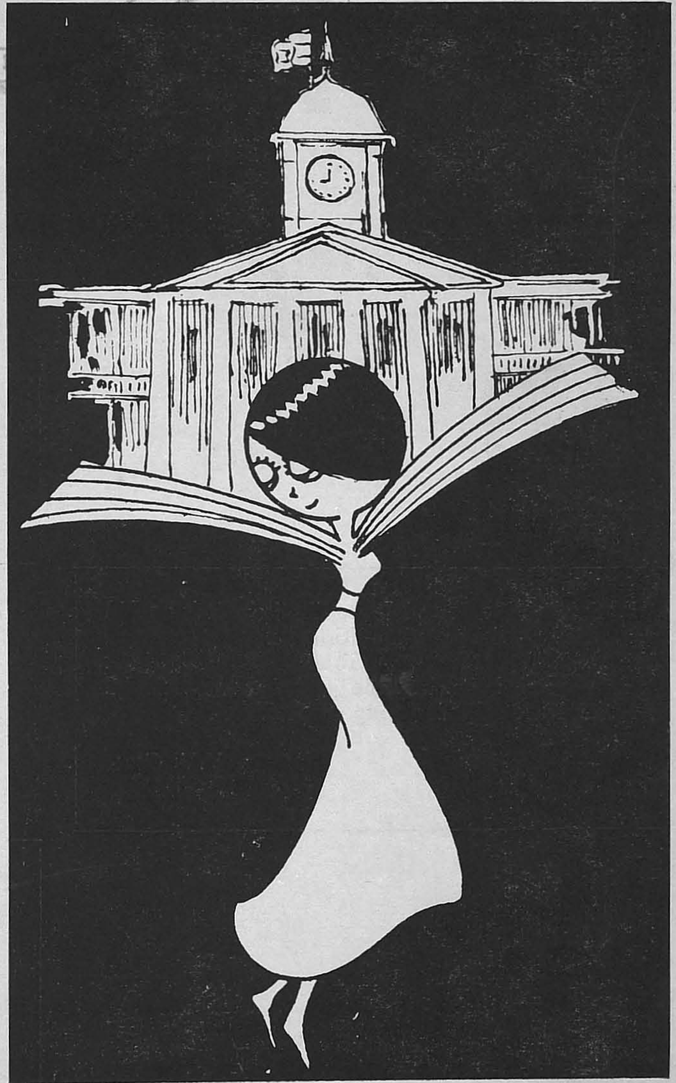
I am glad to know that the Trivandrum Public Library is completing seventy-five years of service and that it is building a new home for its children's wing. My good wishes for the continued progress of the library.

Indira Gandhi

(Indira Gandhi)

New Delhi,
January 8, 1974.

as you turn the pages...



THIS IS TRIVANDRUM ... AND ITS PUBLIC LIBRARY

IN TRUE COLOURS

THEY CAME, THEY SAW.........

And They Wrote

An author naturally finds himself at home in a library and when he finds in that library a few of his own he cannot but be pleased and flattered. I have spent a happy hour here.

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM
18-1-1938

I am delighted to visit the library. It is an old institution with good traditions. It deserves every encouragement from the Government and public. I am glad it is used by the readers extensively. I wish the institution long success.

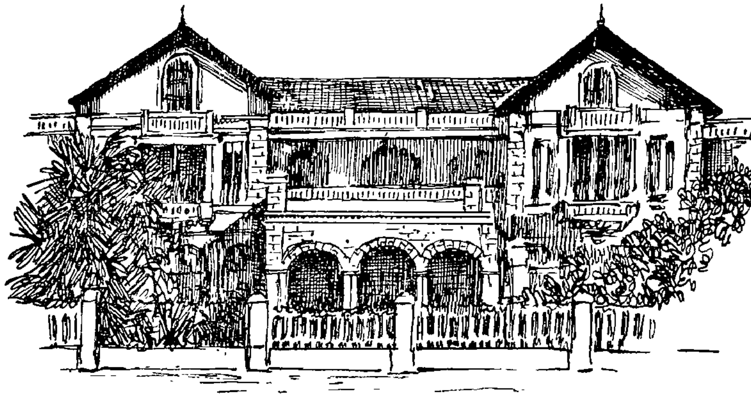
V.V. GIRI
6-7-1960

It is a great joy to find a library where books are made alive by someone who lives these books as part of himself. So the librarian's library is the best one in the world. I am grateful for the atmosphere of this library and I hope to return to it, even more humbly than when I leave it today.

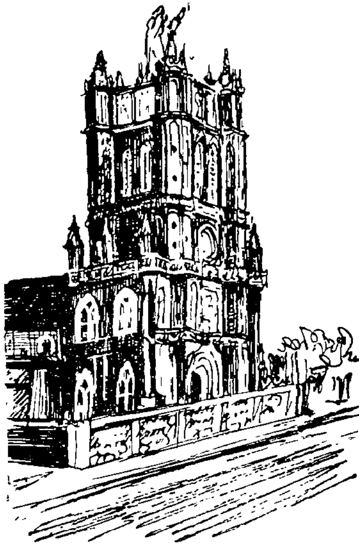
RAJA RAO

I enjoyed my visit to the library. It seemed to me to be doing in rather an unusually complete way what on would like a library to do. The books it contained had obviously been selected with reference to what the clients of the library would wish to read and there was statistical evidence that this attitude on the part of the library authorities is being appreciated. The whole atmosphere of the place struck me as conducive to the enjoyment of good reading.

JOHN SARGENT
Education Commission for India
10-11-1939



Trivandrum Public Library
"An old world charm . . ."



Overwhelmingly Rustic . . . Soothing to Nerves Tortured by the Mad Rush of Cities

Trivandrum, Unlimited

OLD FEUDAL VALUES HAVE NOW EMERGED IN A NEW FORM

Ramji

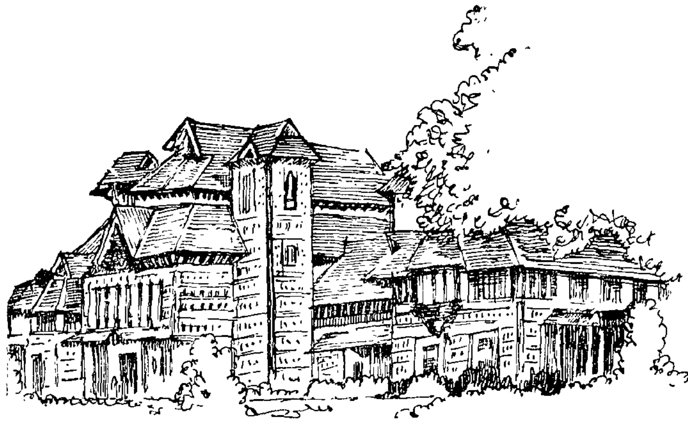
Freelance Journalist and Art critic

Size-wise, Trivandrum is one of our smallest cities. But ego-wise, it is bigger and more advanced than Tokyo itself ! The true Trivandrumite has an enviable, blinkered vision which helps him rate his city as the best and only one of its kind in the whole world. Talk of traffic in Bombay or New York, for that matter, and he would counter it with the crush along Trivandrum Main Road or Putharikandam Maidan. And if, by any mischance, you were to mention the water supply system in some city or other, you would be properly floored with a panegyric about Aruvikarai, Sir C. P. (former Dewan of Travancore) and all the rest, even if the pipe in the champion's home happens to produce uncomplimentary sounds instead of chlorinated water. With his shirt pasted to his torso with copious sweat, he would go into ecstacies over the climate of Trivandrum ; of course, the best in the world. A city which triggers such pride amongst its old stagers is something worth writing home about.

I got a dose of Trivandrum during my first visit to the City in 1957 and the impression has always remained a chastening influence. I was cut down to size, and

Huzur Secretariat
"The most important factory in Trivandrum"





Trivandrum Museum
"a source of unsullied delight . . ."

have never since recovered the trimmed off portions.

The first encounter took place in what is popularly labelled Hotel and Tea Shop, the 'T' in Malayalam script becoming the T as in 'It'. At that period in its glorious history, Trivandrum had not been sullied by the presence of "foreigners" from Malabar and the few officials from the erstwhile Cochin State were there on sufferance and had been properly shown their lowly place in the scheme of things in the City.

I placed my order with a bearer who showed his proper contempt for the customer by turning his back to the customer while taking the order. After some time he came back with a glass of tea and concentrating his mind and eye on some distant, elevated subject, banged the tea/filled glass in front of me. The eats he brought on a plantain leaf and with the same lordly contempt flung these before me. I realised then that I was in a high-brow hotel, especially as the bearer was topless and round his waist he had only a soiled lungi! But he might have been the lord of realm by his air of scorn and superiority. I ate the food, which proved to be wholesome and tasty, got up and washed my paws (I felt thoroughly decategorised, you see) and went to the counter to pay the damages.

At this juncture, I sensed a commotion. The proprietor, a pot bellied, middle aged, topless and shopsoiled man, looked askance at me and pointed to my empty plantain leaf, which was lying innocently on the table I had left. The bearer looked aghast and the regular habituees gave me a dressing down with their eyes. I received a curt order. I had to remove my plantain leaf. I protested : it was unheard of. What were the boys for? And I was accustomed to patronise big hotels, in big metropolitan cities. The proprietor ticked me off: "Saarae, this is Trivandrum (he mouthed his city's name with an indescribable sense of pride). Here this is the way it is done. And this is a Nair tea shop." With all the scandalised eyes focussing on me I felt I had been guilty of sacrilege: had inadvertently violated the indigenous 'star' value of this high caste institution!

I obeyed the local law and cleared the table of the offending plantain leaf. And as I went out I could hear comments from local worthies. Not very complimentary; highly supercilious and larded well with an expression 'Koppa'. Only after a few days did I realise that I had offended the fine sensibilities and superior values of the city, with my clothes. For I happened to wear pants which, in local dialect, is very properly and contemptously called 'koppa'. Now Koppas are quite the thing in Trivandrum. But this is because of the invasion of 'foreigners' after the birth of Aikya Kerala. I doubt very much whether any true Trivandrumite has forgiven this foreign invasion of Koppa which has replaced the one and only Jubba and Dothi, which civilized beings wear.

Thanks to my Koppa, for the first and last time in my life, I got a transient VIPhood. I was surprised when my friend from Madras traced me to my house in Vazhuthakaad. He told me that a shop keeper on the main road had clearly directed him, since I had become a notable person because of my Koppa and because of the outlandish cast of my features!

Ego Trimming

Trivandrum trimmed my ego through several other different ways. For example, I had to find a certain house. I was given clear cut directions: it is in a mudukku (bylane) near the honse of Mr. So and So Pillai. I just could not miss it with my eyes shut. I replied: I don't know Mr. Pillai's house. Don't you have a name for the mudukku and number for the houses? My query raised a super–



Victoria Jubilee Town Hall
" Conical roofs . . . derived from the City's backdrop"

cilious smile. Where was I from: and why so ignorant as not to know Mr. Pillai's house?

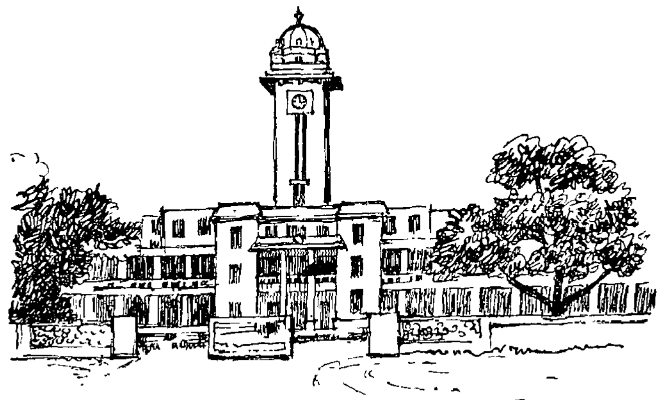
As for street names and door numbers Trivandrum had no need for it. True, everyone knew every other one. And those who did not know were not worth anything. That was that.

The Lordly Bus Conductor

Then again, I was wafted back to my school days by a City bus conductor. The City bus drivers were very gregarious and persist in taking their vehicles out in convoys. I boarded a bus trusting to blind chance as the hieroglyphics carried inside the front panel were incomprehensible and the back panel had only an empty stare, instead of proper name or number guides. The lordly conductor sat in his seat while I had to stand before him, swaying to the motion of the bus while the conductor, after a deliberate pause, during which I had to wait abjectly in front of him, tore off the ticket and accepted the fare with a fine unconcern which any prince might have envied. And when, according to the values acquired in other cities, I rose to offer my seat to a woman, who was obliged tostand inside the crowded bus, both she and the rest of passengers looked askance at me as if I had displayed unmentionable intentions towards her!

All in all, Trivandrum started my education all afresh, with a set of values and outlook, which I had never dreamed of, although I had lived and worked in many major cities in India. I could not say that I have learnt all the lessons. But I have been trying. In the meanwhile my mentor, Trivandrum itself, has undergone a big change, leaving me, so to speak, high and dry.

Trivandrum has developed fast. But it is dubious according to me, whether the development had been properly blue printed. When I saw it first, I was struck by the beauty of the city with its ups and downs, with its period buildings, like the Museum, the Public Offices, the Kaudiar Palace, the Public Library and the entire complex around the University Stadium, including the Cathedral and the tranquil-looking Anglican Church near the Stadium.



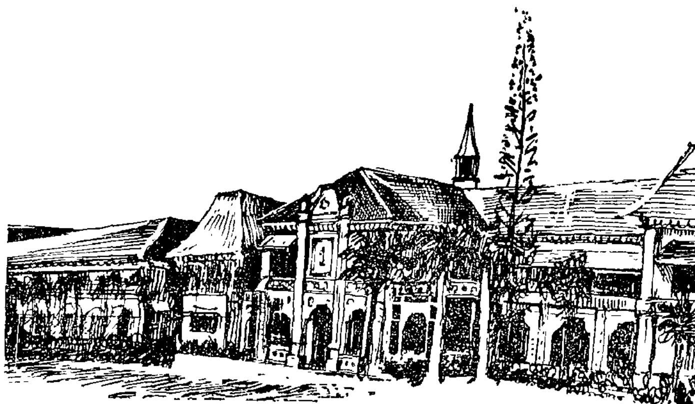
Kerala University Senate House
"another eye-sore is . . . the university centre"

The motif, of the conical roofs of the period buildings seemed to be derived from the backdrop to Trivandrum, the Western Ghats with its conical peaks and undulating contour. An exquisitely charming skyline for a city beautifully sited. And since the roads were most of the time in a state of somnolence and the overall atmosphere overwhelmingly rustic, Trivandrum indeed was soothing to nerves tortured by the mad rush of metropolitan cities.

Secretariat and Library

Lazing on the sands of Shankumukham beach, with the gigantic mansard roof of an old building, converted into an indoor stadium, for background, or lolling around in the wonderfully laid out Zoological Park and emarald green lawns of the Museum, were of a source of unsullied delight. Even the Secretariat, the most important 'factory' in Trivandrum had a somnolent atmosphere then.

And the Public Library had an old world charm and hunting for a book inside its shelves then used to be



University College
" the beauty of the city. . . with its period buildings "

an adventure in itself, since one never knew what sort of book would turn up in any particular shelf, labels notwithstanding. I have fished out Geography books from shelves marked Economics. All in all, it was a charming, old-world city; an ideal spot for a quiet holiday.

True, there were irritants then, like the coloured statue of a middle-aged gentleman, obviously a diabetic, with a bulge in his middle, carrying the Olympic torch and desecrating with his dominating position, the wonderfully sited Police Stadium, or the art gallery which, along with some fine selections, had a lot of junk passing off as art exhibits, or Chengalchula in the heart of the city, tucked between two hills to form a first class slum, which has been developing and getting slummier through its 'vote-power', or the insularity, self complacency, pettiness and utter lack of sense of duty of the officials in this clerks' town, the egocentrism which helped to rate the Puthenkacheri (Secretariat) above Delhi Secretariat and Petta above Fleet street, etc. But these were nullified by the finer points endowed by nature and careful planning, which helped to make this an endearingly charming city inspite of its citizens.

Vandalistic Growth

But the spirit of development has been vandalistic. The physical beauty has been spoiled by so called modern buildings, the architects of which have shown scant awareness of tradition, geography and climate of the city. The crowning piece of atrocious architecture is that monstrosity, the Tagore Theatre, which is a gross insult to functionalism and aesthetics as well as to the traditional architectural backdrop of the city. Another eyesore is the Public Service Commission building and the University Centre and the N.G.O. Association office, the huge, bottle like commercial building which has created a bottleneck at the opening of the main road, and the new water tank which thrusts its straight lines up in wanton disregard of the sloping lines of the old tank and the contour of the site around.

The impact of modernism, blindly applied, whether it be in public buildings or private residences, has killed the exquisite physical charm of the city. Overmuch reliance on ferro-concrete and borrowed designs, which might be suitable for other climes and other sites, have conspired to rob Trivandrum of its physical character.

Along with the physical appearance the overall character of the citizen has also changed (for the better?). The "foreigners" from other areas in the State have swamped the native genius, The *Koppas*, cocktail bars, coffee house culture and hippie cult have made this erstwhile highly individualistic town, highly conformist. And with Aikaya Kerala and the Democratic process, it has became a modern temple: a place of pilgrimage for favour seekers who haunt the heels of Ministers and MLAs and waste valuable time wandering round the corridors of the Secretariat and other offices to get their papers "pushed".

Official Insularity

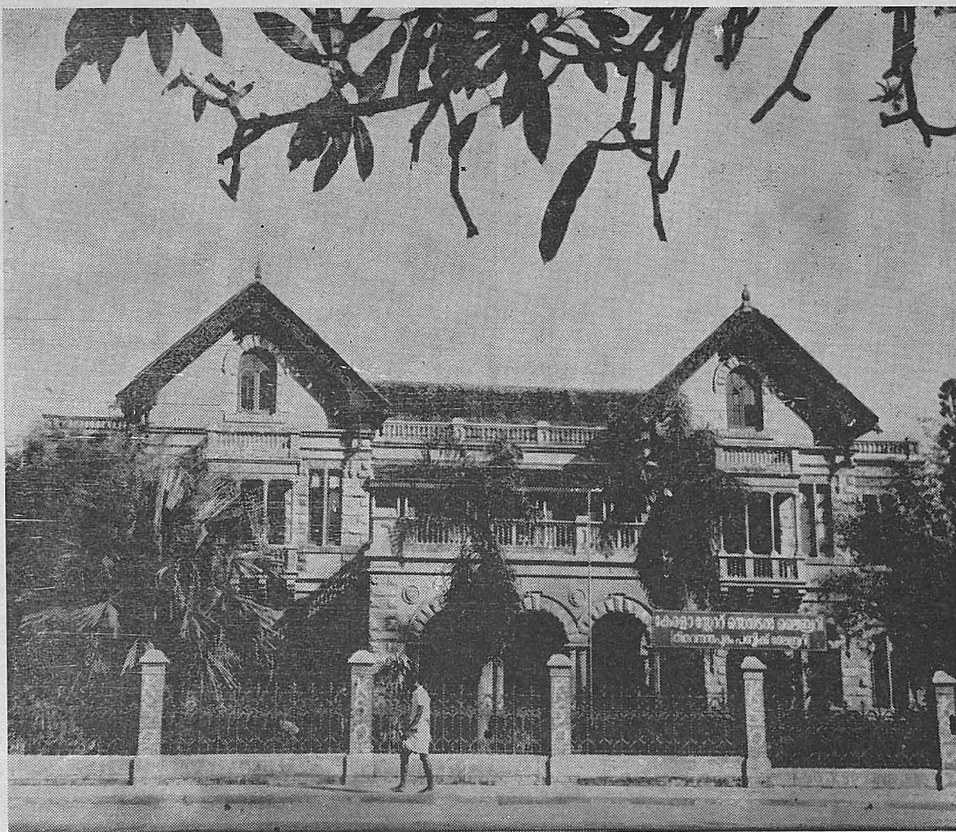
But inspite of all this, there is one constant factor; the official insularity to public needs. This has not changed. This is the core of Trivandrum's character. Power rests securely in the Mansions of the Ministers, in the MLAs' hostel and the bungalows in Jawahar Nagar. And the suppliants have to come from all corners of Kerala bringing with them 'outlandish' ways and outlook which have helped to water down and sully the traditional values of Trivandrum.

The far-sightedness of the original planners of Trivandrum who chose the present site stand vindicated. For foreigners from other areas in the State now swear by this city. Thus we see people from Malabar and other areas, who used to complain of the egoistic Trivandrum complex, acquiring this quality themselves, while they build houses and settled down in the city, in their hundreds. It is a poser whether they convert Trivandrum or get converted by the charisma of the city.

I feel that Trivandrum values are far too enduring to be basically corroded by outsiders. The new settlers soon acquire old values as they try to secure jobs for their sons, daughters, in laws, maid and man-servants, in the Government pen-pushing factories, and straightway acquire snobbish values which prompt them to block just claims and exercise other techniques of administrative functioning aimed at harassing the public in order to put them in their proper lowly place, befitting a feudal society.

Inspite of Democracy etc. etc., the old feudal values, which held sway in this city, have now emerged in a new form in which popular ministers elected by the people acquire trappings of accomodation and protocol which any prince might envy. And while common men represented by the Ministers, the MLAs and the officials have turned de-facto princes in Trivandrum, the traditional prince has been thrust to the background to lead a life of seclusion and anonymity. One ruling prince has been replaced by several ruling princes. This is *Democracy*.

Thus there is a transformation in Trivandrum which is after all not basic. For limited Tweedledum has been replaced by unlimited Tweedledee. And, as in Delhi where Great Moghul values have been revived and reasserted, one may hope that Trivandrum values would endure for ever.

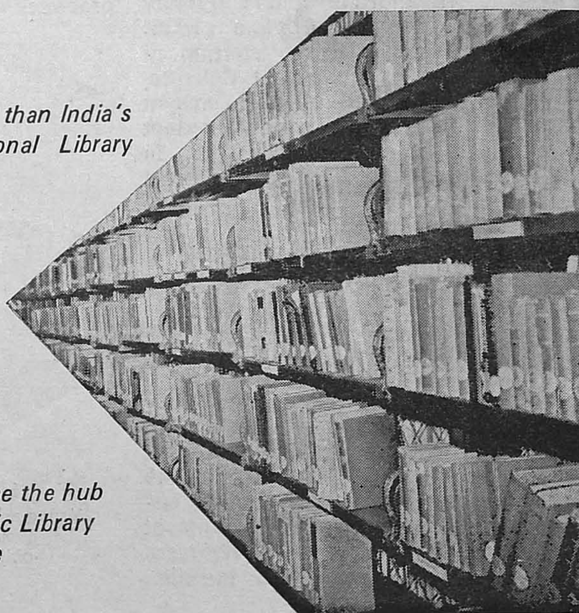


A PROFILE IN SPLENDOUR

A Centenarian, Yet Only Seventy-five

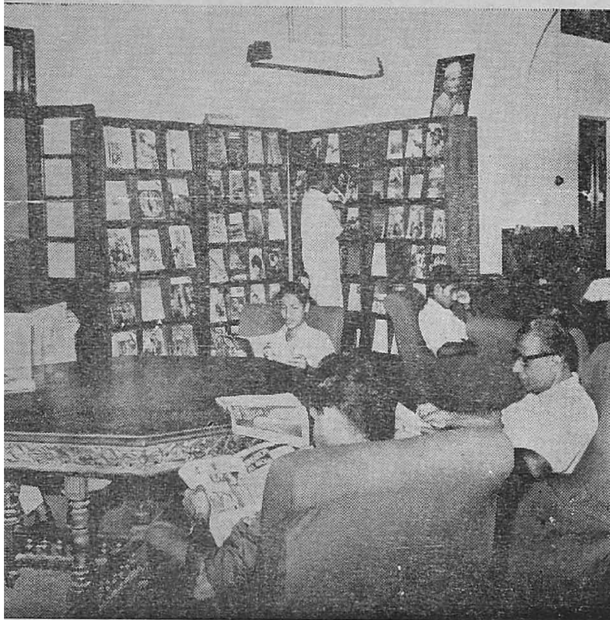
P. Vasudevan
Assistant Librarian,
Trivandrum Public Library

Older than India's National Library



It should become the hub of a free Public Library Service

A celebration is a link between the past and the present which tends to objectify values and ideals for the future. But it may appear to be curious as to why a platinum jubilee celebration follows a centenary celebration in the name of the Trivandrum Public Library. Hardly a quarter of a century has passed since the Centenary was celebrated in 1949. Now, it is celebrating its Platinum





Reading Room :
Hundreds of readers frequent the cosy room to read magazines from all over the world.

Book Room :
In the ornate shelves members find a very rich collection.

Jubilee. This certainly warrants a little explanation.

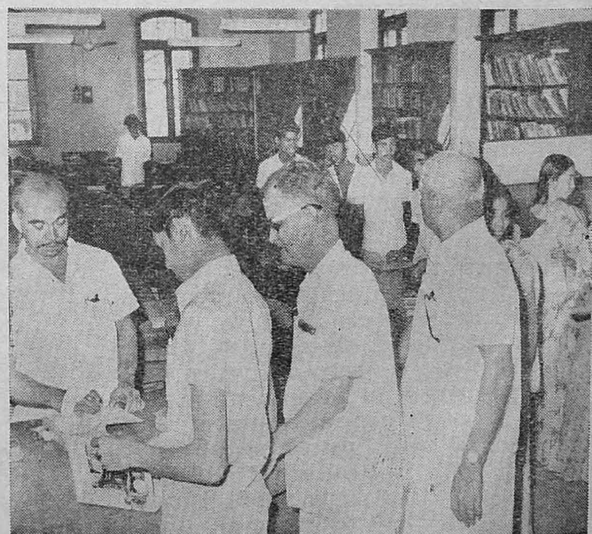
The celebration in 1949 marked the hundredth birth anniversary of this great 'temple of learning' whereas the platinum jubilee is in memory of the opening of the library to the thirsty public for knowledge.

The Trivandrum Public Library had its inception before 1836, which is prior to the starting of the Imperial Library at Calcutta, the fore-runner of the present Indian National Library. An extant document, a 'neettu' No. 216, in the possession of the Central Archives in Trivandrum, bears testimony to this fact. The centenary celebration was, therefore, highlighting the contemporaneity of the Trivandrum Library with other libraries of the world and the first-of-its-kind status in India.

In 1894 the Public Library Association was registered as a joint stock company and three years later, under an agreement with the Government, handed over its entire property to the Government on condition that the Government would erect a suitable building and establish a free Public Library to be handed over to the public.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIALISM

The above unique agreement, a 'Magna Carta', envisaged a world of bibliographical socialism. This was not a historical accident, but an eventful revolution that produced an ever-increasing wave of library consciousness among the people. In one sense, it was an attempt to create an enlightened society through library service. In another sense, it has given the State a directive principle to be followed in the matter of free public library service. In fact it was heralding a change of the phase of public library service from the classes to the masses. The celebration in the name of this



Issuing Books :
Young and old booklovers queuing up before an obliging library staff

great event of 75 years ago is, no doubt, laudable.

Since then, many processes of social change have been witnessed by the people. Travancore became Travancore-Cochin in 1949, which, along with Malabar became Kerala in 1956. But the State re-organisation and the concomitant changes in many spheres have not produced any phenomenal change in the sphere of public libraries in the State. It has also not been possible to adequately fulfil the condition for running a free public library for the people, on which 'The People's Library' (the seal of which is present in many of the old books of this library) transferred its assets to the Government. Still, the Trivandrum Public Library is running as a subscription library. The spirits of our pioneer library enthusiasts may be hovering round this institution to see the birth of an ideal free public library service.

MOSAIC OF LIBRARY

The dismal scene of public libraries in Kerala presents a mosaic of library patterns: libraries under the Local Library Authority created under the Madras Library Act 1948; libraries under the Kerala Grandhasala Sangham; libraries under the Panchayats and the Municipalities (excepting Municipal Corporations); the Trivandrum Public Library (*alias* State Central Library) and the mobile libraries under the State Government.

Judged by the standards of the Unesco Public Library Manifesto (1949) with its revision (1973), it is obvious that Kerala has yet to open its eyes wider in the field of public libraries. Paradoxical, as it may seem, many essential components of a public library in conformity with the internationally accepted definition of it, are found in the library matrix of Kerala. But the absence of a uniform State-wide system of free public libraries signifies a crisis, more than a catastrophe. The crisis seems to lead to a chronic condition.

Perhaps, a crisis in the sphere of libraries. is not so serious as that of the storm in a tea cup. A storm-tossed 'librasphere' of Kerala is but a freak of nature. Government authorities, non-governmental bodies, professional and non-professional library associations, are all involved in brewing the storm. The professional bodies are no less than apologetic weaklings. They have not produced a happy image of themselves which could be due to their inefficiency, if it cannot be attributed to their disregard for library service. The king-pins of the professional bodies pride themselves in their statuses as silver gods seated in ivory towers and claim to offer expertise. The non-professional groups seem to delight in vilifying the professionals and try to play the role of country-cousins in the library field. In fact, both the groups have forsaken library service to the people and are frantically trying to create 'personality cult' in their respective fields. The Government's attitude seems to be that of a passive sick man and seems to follow a dragon policy. All these attitudes have succeeded in maintaining the tempo of the crisis. In the result, the electorate is left without adequate library service. Right for enlightenment and free access to the tools of knowledge must be guaranteed to every citizen. Creative attitudes only can help to attain this goal.

The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations can take a fuller meaning and significance only when the Trivandrum Public Library is made the hub of all the activities in connection with the State's public library service. The need for a network of comprehensive and integrated system of libraries is indeed very great and must find immediate solution. The State Central Library, as it is called now, should cease to be a mere nomenclature. It should be made to function with its full status and significance. Necessary piece of library legislation must also find its place in the statute book to meet this end. Attempts to bring an Act were made. But they were feeble and ineffective and have proved only a Penelop's web.

The benefit of free library service should be extended to more fields such as hospitals, jails, after-care homes, factories, etc. The Childrens' Wing of the library should be developed fully and adequately to attract more children, by providing all facilities to create and foster healthy reading habits in them. An auditorium, with gramaphone records, tapes etc. will attract them more. Reference facilities, at present available, also require radical changes.

Another pre-requisite is to preserve rare and valuable old books in this library in an air-conditioned room, in order to aviod further deterioration of the materials. Many of them are priceless treasures. No material of value should be allowed to be lost in future. Such materials should be collected, processed and preserved for use. A documentation service is thus essential. It should be started in the areas in which public demand is felt. Photocopying and microfilming units should be attached to this library for carrying out the services more efficiently and quickly Top priority attention in this matter is highly necessary.

This library has great potentiality for the development of its services. But the present picture is dim. It is, however, not the want of a perspetcive plan for its development or the want of professional men of ability and willingness, that makes the picture dim. It is not for paucity of funds. Sincere and effective action from the side of the State is, what may seem to be, wanting to brighten the pciture. What the people expect is a free public library service in Kerala. Let us hope that the State will not remain indifferent in providing ways for enlightenment of its electorate, so that people can know for themselves their role in society and Government. Rooting out ignorance from the minds of the people, at all levels, through a well-organised system of free public library service, is a fundamental function of the State. Let this be realised through the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations by saving the Trivandrum Public Library from the stormy librasphere.

Early years: From Darbaris' to People's

The Trivandrum Public Library

CHEQUERED BUT AMUSING, SLOW BUT SURE PROGRESS

V. K. N. Menon

A photostat of a royal edict in *Ola* (*palm leaf*) issued by the then Maharaja of Travancore sanctioning a gift of Rs. 1000 for the Trivandrum Public Library in September 1836. The *Ola* documents are preserved in the State Government Archives in Trivandrum.

"The first ray of light which illumines the gloom, and converts into a dazzling brilliancy that obscurity into which the earlier history" of the Trivandrum Public Library would appear to be involved—for here we are concerned with it, and not with the history of the Club named after the immortal

Samuel Pickwick, through Dickens' famous exordium, quoted above, regarding the latter is equally applicable to both, and the earlier proceedings of the library even read sometimes like those of that Club—that first ray of light is now derived from the perusal of an 'Ola' document of 1836 preserved in the Archives and which says:

നീട്ടു. 1012 കന്നിമാസം 5നു

കൊടുത്തുട്ട സാധനവും വായിച്ചു കേട്ടവസ്ഥയും അറിഞ്ഞു തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ളിക് ലൈബ്രെറിവകക്കു ഇനാമായിട്ടു ആയിരം രൂപാ ഇവിടെ നിന്നും കൂടെ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു നിദാനം വരെണമെന്നും ലൈബ്രെറി സിക്രിട്ടെരി മെസ്തർ റാബർട്ടു 1836-ാം വർഷം സപ്ടംപർ മാസം 14-നു എഴുതിയ കായിതം വന്നിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രകാരവും ആ വക രൂപാ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ആക്ടിംക ശ്രാപ്പിന്റെ പെക്കു നിനവു കൊടുത്തയക്കെണ്ടുന്ന് അവസ്ഥകൊണ്ടും എല്ലൊ എഴുതി വന്നതിലാകുന്നു. അതിന്മണ്ണം മെലെഴുതിയ വകക്കു ആയിരം രൂപാ കൊടുക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഹജൂർ ഖജനാവിൽ ആക്ടിംക ശ്രാപ്പു തമ്പപ്പെരുമാപിള്ളയുടെ പെക്കു എഴുതിയിട്ടുള്ള നിനവു ഇതിനൊടു കൂടെ കൊടുത്തയച്ചിരിക്കകൊണ്ടു അപ്രകാരം രൂപാ കൊടുപ്പിച്ചു കൊള്ളുകയും വേണം എന്നും ഇക്കാര്യം ചൊല്ലി 1012-ാമാണ്ടു കന്നിമാസം 30-നു ദിവാൻ ശെഷൊ പണ്ഡിതർ സുബ്ബാരായർക്കു നീട്ടു എഴുതിവിട്ടു എന്നു തിരുവുള്ളമായ നീട്ടു

From the above it is clear that the Library was begun in, or at least before, 1836, that is, during the reign of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal. The State Manual of Travancore, written by V. Nagam Aiya and published in 1906, states unequivocally that the library was begun in 1836; and there are good grounds for accepting the date as possibly the correct one, as it does not conflict with the 'Ola' date and as Nagam Aiya was familiar with the old records of the State and was also a member of the Library Committee in the last decade of the century.

However, the printed Annual Reports of the Library beginning with 1963-64, state, equally unequivocally, as follows: "It was established in 1829. The work of starting and organising the library was entrusted to Col. Edward Cadogan, the then British Resident, who was the grandson of Sir Hans Sloan, the founder of the British Museum.He was the first President of the Trivandrum Public Library Committee." It has not been found possible to trace the source of this information. But, from the manner in which it is given, another date, 1829, rather than 1836, cannot be excluded for the commencement of the institution.

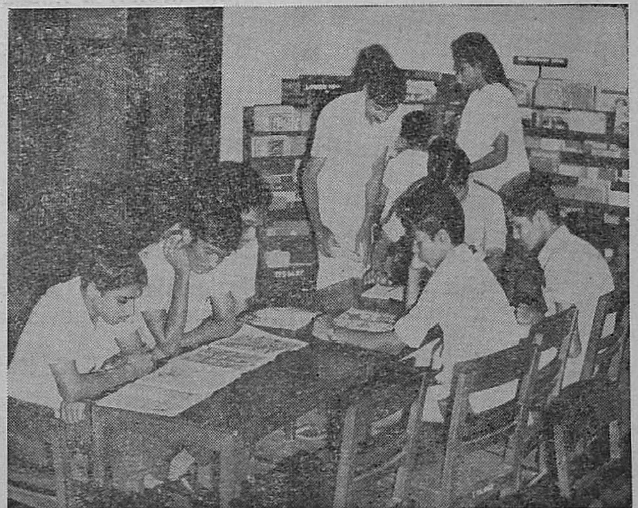
From the minutes of the Library, (which we now have only from 1877, and some of them are copies at first), it is clear that the founders were a few private individuals, names now unknown except for that of Col. Cadogan (if we accept the statement in the Annual Report), and mainly Britishers, civilian and military, and perhaps also a few Indians, resident in Trivandrum, both, having a status entitling them to be invited to the 'darbars', of the Maharaja, They managed it as a private club, though it was called a 'Public' Library, perhaps to distinguish it from a governmental one. Both books and periodicals in English, of course, were ordered and circulated among members.

Where the Library was first located is not known now. But there is evidence that, by 1847, it had acquired its own land and building, The latter became, years afterwards, the "Old Travellers' Bungalow," on the site of the present University Hostel for men.

By 1847 the members had also constituted themselves formally into a "Trivandrum Public Library Society" with a proper Constitution and body of Rules. When the foundation stone of the first extension to the present building was laid in 1949, it was mentioned in the inscription as an addition to commemorate the centenary of the library. The hundred years must have been calculated from about the date of the beginning of this new era of the library in about 1847, as a formal association.

State recognition came soon afterwards to the Library. In 1856 Government agreed to pay Rs. 13 per mensem for office expenses. At the same time the venue of the Library was shifted to the new and small Museum, then located in the Observatory House. The ideas was for Government to use the Library's own building as a Travellers' Bungalow, (thoughi ts acquisition for the purpose was formally done only in 1881), and construct another building, in due course, for the Library. Once in the Observatory House, a set of valuable scientific books was transferred, in 1865, from the Observatory to the library. In 1877, and possibly for sometime before that, we find that the meetings of the Library were held in "the College", the present University College, the first building of which had been occupied in 1873. Evidently, when both the Museum and the Library

Children's Section:
The new generation gets more and more facilities at the Trivandrum Public Library, one of the oldest in India



were in the Observatory House from 1856, there was not enough convenience in it for even the sparsely-attended (about 3-12) meetings of the Library, though the Museum was temporarily shifted to Sir T. Madhava Rao's new Public Offices in 1876. From 1878 the meetings are mentioned as in the Library, by which, one supposes, was meant the Observatory House (now without the Musem), and from 1880, the new Museum building (in the Public Gardens) first occupied in that year and to which not merely the Museum but also the Library, perhaps, had now been transferred.

PEOPLE'S LIBRARY

While the Trivandrum Public Library was making its slow progress, a People's Library had come into existence some time before 1878, housed in a building in the area then known as the Bodyguard Maidan and now as the Police Stadium, and near the place where All India Radio's Trivandrum Station was first located. This was the beginning of a really public Library in the town, the one started earlier still continued to serve only for darbars! A general meeting, in 1878, of the Public Library agreed "that the rule admitting natives to read the books only, but not take them home, on the payment of one Rupees a month be omitted as there is a People's Library in the place which meets the wants of all such persons". So the People's Library had come into existence before 1878. But exactly when it did so or who its founder was were either, we do not know now.

In 1892, thirty six years after its move from the building which had then become a Travellers' Bungalow, and eleven after the building had even been formally transferred to Government, the Library went back to its old venue. We have to conclude that the accommodation in the Museum had become inadequate and as the negotiations with government for a new site and building, of which the minutes of meetings speak again and again, were taking time, Government had agreed to this. In 1892 some meetings continued to be held in the (old) Museum Library; but from the next year they were again in the Travellers' Bungalow.

Owing to the slow progress of the discussions with government—with proposals and counter proposals—a deputation of the library waited upon the Resident, Mr. Grigg, in 1893 to seek his advice and assistance with Government regarding its future. He advised, as the first step, the formal registration of the Library members as a society under the "Travancore Joint Stock Companies Regulation", and to open the library to the public. The members ultimately accepted the advice and the "Trivandrum Public Library Society" was registered in 1894.

OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Three years later, in 1897, an agreement was at last reached between the Society and the Government by which the institution was to be transferred to Government, opened to the public and housed in

a suitable new building. Accordingly, Government took over the Library in 1898, and from now it became really public library. The People's Library, which had no *raison dietre* any more, merged with the Public Library in 1899.

Among the decisions of Government to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 was one to construct this building on the present site. The building was commenced in 1900 as the foundation stone says, and completed in 1902, though, curiously enough, the stone gives only the first three figures of the date of completion. The figure 2 was obviously intended to be added when the building was completed; but it has not been done to this day. In the same year the Library moved into it from the old Travellers' Bungalow.

With the take-over of the Library by Government, in 1898, the opening of its membership to the public, its amalgamation with the People's Library and the occupation of its new building in 1902, we may conclude this early history of the Trivandrum Public Library.

AMUSING INCIDENTS

It was, as we have seen, a chequered career, the date of its commencement date itself not beyond question. As we go through the minutes which have survived, interesting, and even amusing, things also turn up here and there. Reference has already been made to the small attendance even at "Special general" meetings-a dozen or so only-and quite a few had to be adjourned to secure adequate numbers present for the transaction of important business. The negotiations with Government for a proper and new building on a suitable site took nearly half a century to conclude successfully. The long restriction of membership for nearly three quarters of a century to 'darbaris' only, though including Indian 'darbaris' also, was in keeping with the spirit of the times. In any case, was there not, from 1878 at least, a People's Library for ordinary 'Natives' who, need not therefore, be allowed any longer to use the Public Library? A decision of 1879 was to the effect that the magazine "Queen be circulated first to the married members having their wives with them and to ladies, members of the society (the married members to include members having Lady members of their family living with them)" In the same year planters living near Trivandrum were to be admitted to membership under strict conditions. And in 1884 'darbaris' in Quilon were also to be admitted. But many of the latter proved defaulters in subscriptions, and though the Officer Commanding at Quilon was written to collect arrears, in the end they had to be written off. Miss. Vernede, the local Secretary, was thanked for her services and asked to collect them; but as she was strictly enjoined not to spend any money in the process, she had done little in this respect, evidently. In 1890 some covers of periodicals were found lost and had to be replaced. In the same year a billiards room in the proposed library was thought inappropriate.

In 1891 there was a motion against Secretary Ferguson for some alleged unauthorised negotiations with Government regarding the new buildings; but the Secretary affirmed authority and the motion was lost. In the same year there was a protest aimed higher, this time against the Resident and the Diwan, for their presence at a special general meeting, because they were not members of the library. But the Resident asserted his right to be present in the public interest, and the Dewan, even going further, in the interest of Government too. The protest was useless. In 1896 a Colonel's request for non-payment of subscription during the three months of summer when he was on leave out of Trivandrum was rejected as, under the Rules, he should have resigned before going away; he proteseted, but the committee stood by its previous resolution, at the next meeting. In 1900 there was a notice to Mr. Nagam Aiya himself under section III. 2, of the Rules, whatever they were. From the same date it was found impossible to circulate newspapers because of the increase of numbers following the opening of the Library to the public. In the same year an application for membership from miss Cover in Cochin was rejected as the Rules did not permit persons outside Trivandrum to be enrolled; evidently, Quilon and Miss Vernede had been disappointments. From 1902 there was to be no collection of subscription from members, residences for the same reason as the stoppage of the circulation of newspapers. Finally, in 1902, there is the reiteration by the Committee, in one of its last meetings in the School of Arts, before the occupation of its own new building, a meeting held at 7.30 A. M. (Trivandrum people woke up early those days!), "That with regard to the name of the Institution the term "Diamond Jubilee" was expressly avoided in the documents as that term is merely a popular phrase and has never received official recognition of any kind. To give effect, however, to the purpose of Government the Committee suggest that a tablet or a brass plate should be placed in the Central Hall stating that this building was erected in commemoration of the 60th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria Empress of India. So the Library was still to be "Trivandrum Public Library", as it began and as it is today.

Still, for all this chequered history and many interesting, if also some amusing incidents, the record is of a sure, if slow, progress. And if the names of all its early promoters (except, perhaps, one) are lost in oblivion, we have on record for the later period, and associated with the progress of the Library, names like those of Ormsby, Harvey, Bishop, Lepper, Labouchardiere and Mitchell, as well as of "His Highness the First Prince", "His Highness the Second Prince" "S. Shungra Soobr" "T. Vedadrinatha Moodr", Nagam Aiya, A. Govinda Pillai and P. Thanu Pillai, names still remembered with respect in Trivandrum, after seventy-five years and even more.

തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി

സ്വയംഭരണസ്ഥാപനമാകണം

തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി തലസ്ഥാനനഗരിയിലെ ബുദ്ധിജീവികളുടെ ദാഹംതീർക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള തണ്ണീർപ്പന്തലായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം.

എൻ. ശേഖരപിള്ള

തിരുവനന്തപുരം ചരിത്രാവശേഷമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള തിരുവിതാംകൂർ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ രാജധാനിയായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ബുദ്ധിജീവികളുടെ മേധാപരമായ ആദരവും അഭിമാനവും സമാർജ്ജിച്ച പ്രസിദ്ധ ഗ്രന്ഥാലയമായിരുന്ന തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി. അന്ന് ദക്ഷിണേന്ത്യയിലെ സുവിദിതഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളിൽ ഒന്നായിരുന്നു ഈ സ്ഥാപനം. എന്നാൽ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യലബ്ധിക്കുശേഷം ഈ ലൈബ്രറിക്ക് രാജവാഴ്ചക്കാലത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ വളരെ കൂടുതൽ പുരോഗതിയുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നതു് വേദനാജനകമായ ഒരു പരമാർത്ഥമാണ്. പലതരം പ്രതികൂലസാഹചര്യങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കലനഫലമാണിതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ആരെയും കുററപ്പെടുത്തുക എളുപ്പമല്ല. ഏതായാലും മററു പല പഴയ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെയും എന്നപോലെ പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയുടേയും ഇന്നത്തെ നില ആശങ്കാജനകമാണ്. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ഭാഷയുടെ പ്രാമുഖ്യം അനുനിമിഷമെന്നോണം ലുപ്തമായിത്തീരുകയും, ഏകലോകാദർശത്തേയും സാമ്യവാദത്തേയും മുറുകിപ്പിടിക്കുന്നവർ പോലും ഒരു ലോകഭാഷയായ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിനു് സഹായകമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു നിലപാടെടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ഗ്രന്ഥാലയങ്ങൾ പരിപുഷ്ടമായി സംരക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടണമെന്ന് നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരു 'പെററിബൂർഷ്വാ' മനഃസ്ഥിതിയായി ചിത്രീകരിക്കപ്പെടാനിടയുണ്ടു്.

ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ അംഗീകൃത ദേശീയ ലൈബ്രറികളിൽ ഒന്നായി സ്ഥാനം നേടുവാനുതകുന്ന രീതിയിലായിരുന്നു തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി ഉയർന്നു വന്നതു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സർവകലാശാലയുടെ ആദ്യത്തെ പ്രോവൈസ് ചാൻസലർ ആയിരുന്ന പ്രൊഫസർ സി. വി. ചന്ദ്രശേഖരൻ ഏറിയ കാലം ഈ ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ ഓണററി സിക്രട്ടറിയായിരുന്നു ആ കാലമായിരുന്നു ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ സുവർണ്ണദശ. അന്ന് തമിഴ്, സംസ്കൃതം, മലയാളം എന്നീ ഭാഷകളിലുള്ള ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും ഇവിടെയുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും, ഈ സ്ഥാപനം യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഒരു ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ഗ്രന്ഥാലയമായിരുന്നു.

സ്വദേശീകരണത്തിന്റെ അതിപ്രസരമുള്ള ഇക്കാലത്തും, മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് സാരമായ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. പക്ഷേ, സ്വയംഭരണക്ഷമമായ ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമെന്നതിനു് പകരം, സർക്കാരിന്റെ വിപുലമായ ഒരു വകുപ്പിന്റെ നിസ്സാരമായ ഒരു ഉപവകുപ്പ് എന്ന നിലയിലല്ലേ ഇന്നു് ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനം?

പദവിയുണ്ടു്; അധികാരമില്ല

ഇതിനു് സ്റ്റേററ് സെൻട്രൽ ലൈബ്രറി എന്ന ബഹുമാന്യപദവിയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ശരിയാണ്. എന്നാൽ മററു ഗ്രന്ഥാലയങ്ങൾക്കു് പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ലഭ്യമാക്കുന്ന ഒരു കേന്ദ്രസ്ഥാപനമെന്ന നിലയിൽ ഇതിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനമേഖല വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം വിസ്തൃതമാണോ എന്നു് സംശയമാണ്, ഇനിയത്തെ പരിതഃസ്ഥിതികളിൽ അപ്രകാരമുള്ള അവസ്ഥാന്തരം, എളുപ്പമോ ആവശ്യമോ അല്ലെന്നും വരാം. അതിന്റെ കാരണങ്ങൾ ആരായുന്നതും രസാവഹമാണ്. സ്വതന്ത്രഭാരതത്തിൽ മററു പല രംഗങ്ങളിലുമെന്നപോലെ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാപ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിനും ഉത്തേജകമായ സാഹചര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായി. കേരളത്തിൽ, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് തിരുവിതാംകൂർ–കൊച്ചി പ്രദേശത്തു് സാക്ഷരത പ്രചരിച്ചിരുന്നതിനാൽ

ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് അനുകൂലമായ ഒരു അന്ത രീക്ഷം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. മലബാർ വിഭാഗത്തും ലോക്കൽ ലൈബ്രറി അതോറിട്ടികളുടെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ ഗ്രാമീണ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ നടന്നുപോന്നു,

സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യലബ്ധിക്കു കുറേ മുൻപുതന്നെ പഴയ തിരുവിതാം കൂർ പ്രദേശത്തു സംഘടിതമായ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാസംഘം ക്രമേണ കൊച്ചിയിലും മലബാർ പ്രദേശത്തും വ്യാപിച്ച് ഇന്നു് കേരളം മുഴുവൻ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന ഒരു ബൃഹദ് സംഘടനയായി രൂപം പ്രാപിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഏകദേശം 4000ത്തിൽ അധികം ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളുടെ ഒരു വിശിഷ്ട സംഘമായി ത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രസ്തുത പ്രസ്ഥാനം അതിന്റെ സംസ്ഥാന വ്യാപിത്വവും സാർവജനീനത്വവും കൊണ്ടു് സ്വാധീന വി കിരണത്തിനുള്ള ഒരു മേലേക്കിട ഉപാധി എന്ന നിലയിൽ പല രാഷ്ട്രീയ പ്രത്യയ വിശ്വാസികളേയും വ്യാമോഹി പ്പിക്കുകയും പ്രലോഭിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്.

പുസ്തക പാരായണത്തിനുള്ള ആസക്തി എല്ലാ സാക്ഷര വിഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാനും നാട്ടിടകളിൽ നിരക്ഷ രതാ നിർമ്മാർജ്ജനം ഏറെക്കുറെ സാധിതപ്രായമാക്കുവാനും വളരെയധികം സേവനം നടത്തുന്ന ഒരു സംഘടനയായി കഴി ഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്, ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാ സംഘം. പല കാലങ്ങളിലും പല തരത്തിലുള്ള പ്രസിഡന്റുമാർ തലപ്പത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കി ലും പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ജീവാത്മാവും പരമാത്മാവുമായി അതി നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഏതാണ്ടു് ഒരു സവ്യസാചി ത്വവും സർവ്വ വ്യാപിത്വവും സമ്പാദിച്ച ജനറൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ശ്രീ. പി.എൻ. പണിക്കരുടെ അർപ്പണ സമന്വിതവും നിസ്സ്വാ ർത്ഥവുമായ സേവനം കാരണമാണു് ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തി നു് സാമാന്യാതീതമായ സ്വാധീനം ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ ഉണ്ടാ യിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

സ്റ്റേറ്റ് സെൻട്രൽ ലൈബ്രറി എന്ന നിലയിലുള്ള തിരുവ നന്തപുരം പബ്ളിക് ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനു് ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാ പ്രസ്ഥാനവുമായുള്ള അനിവാര്യമായ സമാന്തര ത്വം പൊതുജന ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു് മാത്രമാ ണു് ഇക്കാര്യം ഇവിടെ എടുത്തു പറയുന്നതു്. ചുരുക്കിപ്പറ ഞ്ഞാൽ കുറേ കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പു് ഒരു പക്ഷേ ആവശ്യമായി രുന്ന നേതൃത്വം ഇന്നു് ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലേയോ, ജില്ലാതല സ്ഥാനങ്ങളിലേയോ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾക്കു് തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയിൽനിന്നും നൽകേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാ ത്ത ഒരു നിലയിൽ അവ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു.

നിയന്താക്കളോ ഹന്താക്കളോ

അതിനാൽ കേരള സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ രാജധാനിയിലെ ബുദ്ധിജീവികളുടേയും കൃതവിദ്യരുടേയും, വിജ്ഞാനകുതു കികളുടേയും ജ്ഞാനതൃഷ്ണ ശമിപ്പിക്കുവാനുതകുന്ന ഒരു പ്രസ്രവണമെന്ന നിലയിൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി രൂപാന്തരപ്പെടണം. രാഷ്ട്രീയത്തിന്റെ അതിപ്രസരത്തിൽ നിന്നും തികച്ചും വിമുക്തമായിരി ക്കണം, ഈ ലൈബ്രറി. കക്ഷിപ്രാതിനിധ്യതത്വമനു സരിച്ച് അക്ഷരവൈരികൾ വൈജ്ഞാനിക സ്ഥാപന നി യന്താക്കളായി വന്നു ചേരുന്ന ദുഃസ്ഥിതി ഒരു പക്ഷേ ജനകീ യത്തിന്റെ വിശിഷ്ട പ്രതിഭാസമാകാം. ചില സ്ഥാപ നങ്ങളെങ്കിലും ഈ മാരകവേലിയേററത്തിന്റെ തള്ളലിൽ നിന്നു് രക്ഷപ്പെടേണ്ടതു് നാട്ടിന്റെ ഭാവിക്കു നല്ലതാണെന്നു മാത്രം. ആയിനത്തിൽപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമത്രേ തിരുവ നന്തപുരം പബ്ളിക് ലൈബ്രറി.

സ്വയംഭരണ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമായിരിക്കണം ഈ വിജ്ഞാനകേന്ദ്രം. ഏതു തരത്തിലുള്ള ജ്ഞാനവും ഉൾ ക്കൊള്ളുവാൻ ഗാന്ധിജിയുടെ ഭാഷയിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ, എല്ലാ വശത്തേയ്ക്കും തുറന്നുവയ്ക്കപ്പെടുന്ന വാതായനങ്ങളോടുകൂ ടിയ ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമായിരിക്കണമിതു്. ചിന്താസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യ ത്തിനു് ഉത്കടമായ ആവേശം നൽകുന്ന ഒരു ചലനാത്മക ശക്തികേന്ദ്രം കൂടിയായിരിക്കണമിതു്.

സ്വന്തം നാട്ടിൽ നിൽക്കക്കള്ളിയില്ലാതെ വന്ന മാർക്സിസ് മഹാചിന്തകനു് കമ്മ്യൂണിസത്തെപ്പററി എഴുതുവാനുള്ള പഴു തുകളും, പരിസരവും അനുകൂല സാഹചര്യങ്ങളും ലബ്ധമാ ക്കിയതു് ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ലൈബ്രറിയും, ഇംഗ്ലീഷുകാരന്റെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യ പ്രേമവും പരാഭിപ്രായ സഹിഷ്ണുതയുമാണെ ന്നു് വിസ്മരിക്കാൻ സാധ്യമല്ല. ചെറിയ തോതിലാണെ ങ്കിലും അമ്മാതിരി സർവതന്ത്ര സ്വതന്ത്രമായ അന്തരീക്ഷം സദാ നിലനിറുത്തുന്നതാകണം തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ളിക് ലൈബ്രറി.

ഇതിന്റെ ഉത്ഭവത്തെപ്പററി ഇതെഴുതുന്നയാളിന്റെ പരി മിതമായ അറിവു് ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ പ്രബുദ്ധമായ ഒരു സംഘം ബുദ്ധിജീവികൾ പീപ്പിൾസ് ലൈബ്രറി എന്ന പേരിൽ സമാരംഭിച്ചു് കുറേക്കാലത്തിനുശേഷം ഭരണത്തിനും പരിപാലനത്തിനുമായി ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ഏൽപ്പിച്ച ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമാണിതു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സർവകലാശാലയുടെ ആരംഭദശയിൽ കലാശാലാ ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ പദവിയും ഏതാനും നാളുകൾ ഈ സ്ഥാപനം ഭേസിയിരുന്നു. ഒരു ഫുൾടൈം ലൈബ്രേറിയനായിരുന്ന ശ്രീ എം. എം. ജോണിന്റെ സേവനക്കാലത്തും ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിനു് ചില നേട്ടങ്ങളൊക്കെ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞു.

ജോലിക്കാർ കുറവ്

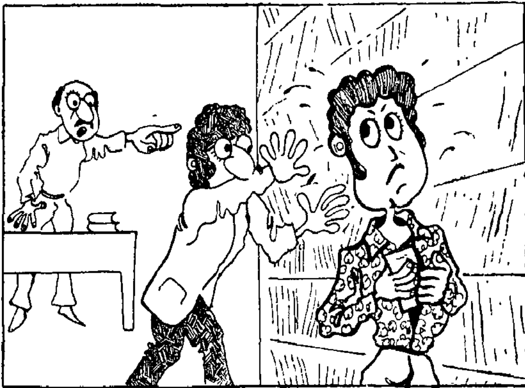
അധുനാതനകാലത്തും പല പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളും നടപ്പിലാ ക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അവയൊന്നും നടത്തിപ്പിലും പ്രയോജ നത്തിലും വളരെയൊന്നും മെച്ചങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല. പഴയ കാലത്തേതിൽനിന്നു് ഗ്രന്ഥസംഖ്യയും മററും വർദ്ധി ച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, അതിനു് ആനുപാതികമായ വർദ്ധനവു് ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിലെ ജോലിക്കാരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാ യിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു സംശയമാണു്. അവരുടെ ശമ്പളനിർണ്ണയ ത്തിലും മററും സാമാന്യനീതി ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ള നിവേദനങ്ങളും പരിവേദനങ്ങളും, ആ ഘട്ടങ്ങൾ കടന്നു് സമരപരിപാടികൾവരെ എത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ദീർഘ കാലത്തെ അനുഭവസമ്പത്തു് സാങ്കേതിക വൈദഗ്ധ്യത്തി ന്റെ അഭാവം നിമിത്തമുള്ള വൈകല്യങ്ങൾക്കൂടി ദൂരീകരി ക്കണമെന്നു് ഒരു പൊതുസിദ്ധാന്തമുണ്ടു്. ആ കാഴ്ചപ്പാടിൽ അവർക്കു് പ്രത്യേക ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ അവകാശപ്പെടാമെന്ന വാദത്തിൽ കഴമ്പില്ലാതില്ല.

ഇന്നാട്ടിലെ മററു പല ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളിലും കാണാനിടയി ല്ലാത്ത ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ, ഔദ്യോഗിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ എ ന്നിവയുള്ള ഒരു ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരമാണു് ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിലുള്ള തു്. അവയെല്ലാം യഥാവിധി സംരക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടുന്നുവോ എന്നു നിശ്ചയമില്ല. ഗവേഷണത്തിനും മററും അത്യധികം സഹായകവും പ്രേരകവുമാകാവുന്ന ഒരു അന്തരീക്ഷം ഇവി ടെയുണ്ടാക്കുക എളുപ്പമാണു്. ആത്മാർത്ഥതയും സേവന സ്ഥിതിയും പ്രവർത്തകർക്കുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, കേവലം ഒരു സർ ക്കാർ സ്ഥാപനം—അതും രാജ്യവ്യാപിയായ ഒരു വകുപ്പി ന്റെ നിസ്സാരവിഭാഗം എന്ന നിലയിൽ—വളരെയധിക മൊന്നും പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാനാവില്ല.

സ്വയംഭരണം വേണം

ആദ്യമായി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് ഇതിനെ മററു ബന്ധങ്ങളിൽനി ന്നു് കഴിവതും സ്വതന്ത്രമാക്കി, സ്വയംഭരണക്ഷമമായ ഒരു ഏജൻസിയായി മാററുക എന്നതാണ്. തൊട്ടതിനും പിടി ച്ചതിനുമെല്ലാം കോർപ്പൊറേഷനുകൾ 'വിശ്വാമിത്രസൃഷ്ടി' പോലെ ഉണ്ടായിക്കാണുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു്, ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തി ന്റെ ഭരണത്തിനു് കാര്യക്ഷമതയോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കാ വുന്ന ഒരു ട്രസ്റ്റ് ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ വലിയ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല പക്ഷേ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ പരമാധികാര ത്തിൻ കീഴിലായിരിക്കണം ട്രസ്റ്റിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ. ഭരണസമിതിയിലേക്കു് ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതിനു് പ്രത്യേക മാനദണ്ഡങ്ങൾ—അക്ഷരാഭ്യാസം സംബന്ധിച്ചെ ങ്കിലും—ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതു് ആശാസ്യമായിരിക്കും. മെമ്പർ മാർക്കു് യാതൊരു കാര്യവുമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു ചുററുപാടാണിന്നു് ആ സ്ഥിതി മാറുന്നതു് അഭിലഷണീയമായിരിക്കും.

കൂടുതൽ അവധാനതയോടുകൂടിയ സംവിധാനവും ഭരണ പരിപാടികളും ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തെ തലസ്ഥാന നഗരിയി ലെ ബുദ്ധിജീവിസഞ്ചയത്തിനു് ഉപകാരപ്രദമാക്കുമെന്ന തിനു് തെല്ലും സംശയമില്ല. ഈ ജൂബിലിവേളയിലെങ്കി ലും അധികൃതരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഇക്കാര്യത്തിലേയ്ക്കു് തിരിയണേ എന്നു പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചുപോകുന്നു.





UNSOCIAL LIBRARY USERS





INDIAN LIBRARIES

STUDY
IN
DEPTH



Reference Room of
National Library

National Library:

In Brief

India's National Library had an interesting and humble beginning in 138 years ago, on March 21, 1836. This was a few years after the setting up of the Trivandrum Public Library). It was started as the Calcutta Public Library by Mr. J. H. Ward Siddons, Editor of *The Englishman*, in the ground floor of the house of Dr. Strong, a civil surgeon of 24 Parganas.

Any one who contributed Rs.300 could become a 'Proprietor' of the library. The first proprietor was Dwarakanath Tagore, grand father of the Poet. The library had in the beginning 6,500 books and a fund of Rs. 3,000. It functioned fairly well for a little more than two decades. In 1857, with the Indian War of Independence it began to wilt and wither. The City Corporation took over its administration in 1890 but it continued to languish. In 1903 Lord Curson, who felt the need for a first class library in Calcutta, set up the Imperial Library by merging Government departmental libraries with the Public Library.

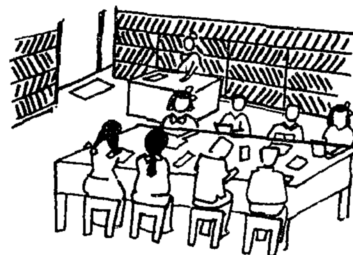
On the country becoming independent in 1947, the Imperial Library got recognition as the National Library and its collection began to grow at a phenomenal rate; its budget also increased year by year.

In 1954, Parliament passed the Delivery of Books Act by which it was made incumbent on publishers to send two copies each of all their books, periodicals and other publications to the National Library. This Act also facilitated the compilation of an Indian National Bibliography.

In 1948 the National Library moved into Belvedere Palace, its present premises, which was the former winter residence of Viceroys in British days. It was given over to the Library by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on the suggestion of Rajaji, the then Governor General. In 1962, a new nine-storey building, with facilities for stocking 180,000 books in each storey, was opened.

Access to the Library is absolutely free. Any person over the age of 18 can take books from the Library. Persons living outside Calcutta can get books by post, the postage being borne by the receipients.

There is a well developed Children's Library and readers' hostel for research scholars attached to the National Library.



Remarkable, Yet Long Way to Go

Public Library Development in India

THE COUNTRY SPENDS ON LIBRARIES ONLY TENTH OF WHAT IT CAN

D. R. Kalia

Director, Central Secretariat Library, Department of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi, Formerly, Founder-Director, Delhi Public Library (1951-67): UNESCO Expert in Libraries in the Middle East (1957-62); and National Librarian (1967-70)

It is a sad commentary on 185 years of British Rule in India that on August 15, 1947, when India attained Independence, there was not a single public library in the country.* It is incredible that when New Delhi was designed in the second decade of this century and completed in 1930 as the capital city, there was no provision for a public library. Whatever libraries existed, had been established by voluntary organisations or endowments and were, without exception, subscription libraries. They were used primarily by the English-speaking 'elite who constituted only one per cent of the total population.

The necessary socio-economic infra-structure was completely lacking at the time of Independence. Only 15 per cent of the people could read and write, of whom only three per cent had received schooling for eight years or more. The rural population which constituted 88 per cent of the total population was almost devoid of literacy. During the British regime, the so-called public libraries primarily acquired English books published in the U. K. Writing and reading in one's own language was frowned upon by the English-speaking elite. It is no wonder that in 1947 only 6,455 books were published in India in 15 Indian languages, making an average of 430 books per language, against 1,627 in English alone. Out of 563,133 towns and villages, only 2,767 or 0.49 per cent had public electricity supply and only very few of the towns and villages were connected by roads.

The Trivandrum Public Library was then 48 years old. However, it took caution money and subscriptions and still take such fees.

These were the constraints under which the National Government planned to provide free universal public library service in the country. Under the Republican Constitution, enforced on January 26, 1950, provision of public library service was made a State concern. The Union Government could support the States in their library development plans only through financial assistance.

Library Legislation

Though the first public library law was passed in Britain as early as 1850, such a legislation in India was never found necessary by the British Government during their entire rule. Under the Municipal Acts, local bodies were, no doubt, empowered to establish public libraries but it was not made incumbent on them. In 1947 out of 440 local bodies only 56 had bothered to provide a modicum of a public library service. Although municipal libraries were maintained out of public funds, most of them charged a subscription besides a cash deposit from their users.

The Madras State, now called Tamil Nadu, proved to be the most progressive of all the States and adopted library legislation as early as 1948, providing the necessary framework and finances for evolving the State Public Library System. A statutory library authority was instituted for the capital city and for each district. Since the local bodies had failed to deliver the goods, they were divested of the responsibility of providing a public library service. A Library rate was levied at the rate of three per cent of the property tax or the house tax paid. Hyderabad State, since defunct, adopted a similar Act in 1955, Andhra Pradesh in 1960, Mysore in 1965 and Maharashtra in 1967. Mysore Public Libraries Act (1965) is the most progressive and forward-looking of all the Library Acts.

The Mysore Act provides for a separate Library Authority not only for the capital city but also for each city with a population of 100,000 or above. It levies a library rate on vehicle tax as well. The State grant is paid at the rate of three per cent of the total land revenue collected. The personnel working in public libraries are State employees. Their salaries are paid out of State funds, thereby relieving City and District Library authorities of this financial burden. Other States likes Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab are also proposing to adopt library legislation. The Government of Punjab, instead of paying grant-in-aid as a certain percentage of the land revenue, proposes to provide half a rupee *per capita* as State aid.

India today is divided into 21 States and 9 Union Territories for purposes of Administration. Each State and Union Territory is divided into District and Sub-Districts. Today there are about 376 Districts and about 3100 Sub-Districts called Talukas or Tehsils. There are 2921 towns and 566,878 villages making a total of 569,799 habitation units to whom library service is to be provided.

The National Library System envisages a National Library at Calcutta, and three Regional National Libraries at Madras, Bombay and Delhi; a State Central Library in each State and Regional State Libraries in large States and a District Central Library in each District and Sub-District Library in each Sub-District. Each city with a population of 100,000 and above will have its own City Library System. The District Library System will establish Branches and Deposit Stations in all the towns and villages lying within its jurisdiction.

Since Independence, a National Library at Calcutta, and two Regional National Libraries at Madras and Bombay have been established. Today 15 States out of 21 or 71 per cent have State Central Libraries; 235 districts out of 376 or 63 per cent have District Central Libraries; 1,500 sub-districts out of 3,100 or 48 per cent have Sub-District Central Libraries; and 50,000 villages out of 566,878 or 9 per cent have Village Libraries. Town Libraries exist in 1,800 out of 2,641 towns or 68 per cent. Among the 29 Metropolitan Cities, each with a population of 400,000 and above, only four namely Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Delhi or 14 per cent have City Public Library Systems with Central Libraries, Branches and Deposit Stations. The Delhi Public Library is the only one in the country operating bookmobiles in the city area.

It is estimated that India is spending today about 5 paisa or 1/20 of a rupee on public library service and about 10 per cent of the total population has access to public library service. India has yet to go a long way in making public library service universally available.

Today India has a much better socio-economic infra-structure for the extension of public library services at an accelerated rate. Thirty per cent of the total population is literate, about 30,000 books are published annually in the country and every habitation unit up to a population of 5,000 is connected by a metalled road and has public electricity supply.

Anti-Egalitarian Rules

The libraries established in the country since Independence, whether under library legislation or executive order, continue to ask for caution money from intending borrowers. The caution money varies from Rs. 10 per head per book to Rs. 30 per head per book. These libraries have no doubt, dispensed with the practice of charging an annual subscription, but caution money itself is an inhibiting factor and discourages enrolment of borrowers on a large scale. A study of the operation of the existing libraries would show that adjudged from their book resources they are capable of serving a much larger number of borrowers. It would be found that hardly one to five per cent of the total book stock is out on loan

at one time whereas it could be much larger. The situation is much worse in the case of libraries which charge annual subscription in addition to caution money. The practice of charging caution money and subscription is anti-egalitarian in character and has no place in the Indian society which has made democratisation of educational facilities its cherished goal. We still pride in clinging to the archaic financial rules framed in 1881 of holding the Librarian responsible for any loss of books detected at the periodic stock taking. It is no wonder that the Librarian for his own safety employs ingenious devices to keep the users away from books.

The major obstacle in the speedier development of public library services in India is financial. How intractable this problem is would not perhaps be appreciated unless one is closely associated with the implementation of library development programmes. For instance, the Working Group on Libraries of the Planning Commission in 1966 recommended that Rs. 810 million be provided for developing public libraries in the country in the Fourth Plan but only Rs. 20 million or 6 per cent of this outlay was actually provided by the Central and State Governments. Fixing targets in the Five Year Plans is one thing and finding funds for reaching them is quite another. The possibilities of providing adequate funds in the Fifth Plan, which is scheduled to commence from April 1, 1974, seem to be bleak if the present trend is any indication.

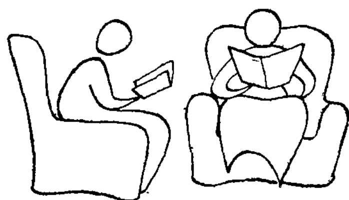


Connemara Library of Madras, one of the oldest and richest collections of books in India. It is adjacent to the Madras Museum.

Another equally disconcerting problem is that of removing the wide disparity that exists between one State and another in the level of expenditure on public library development; for example, the State of Uttar Pradesh would have spent on library development during 1972-73 a sum of Rs. 428,000 or ½ paisa *per capita* against 16½ paisa *per capita* in Tamil Nadu which raises funds through a library rate. It may be argued that India being a poor country cannot afford to spend as much on the development of libraries as the developed countries. I am afraid, it is a fallacious statement. Let us look at some more figures. The national *per capita* income in the U.K. today is 19 times higher than that of India. It means that India should spend 1/19 of what the U.K. spends, but India spends only 1/200 of what the U.K. spends on public library services. Similarly, the national *per capita* income in the U. S. A. is 41 times higher than that of India. India should, therefore, spend 1/41 of what the U. S. A. spends but India spends only 1/416 of what the U. S. A. spends on the public library services. It means that India is spending on public libraries only 1/10 of what it can afford to do. Why India is not spending as much as it can afford to is a moot point. The result of India not doing so is that public libraries in India provide only 1 book for every 100 citizens against 145 in the U. K. and in the U. S. A. Similarly out of every 100 persons 37 are registered with public libraries as borrowers in the U. K. and 25 in the U. S. A. against one out of every thousand in India. In the U. K., every 100 persons borrow 512 books a year and in the U. S. A. 268 against 1.6 in India.

A significant development took place last year when Rajah Rammohun Roy Library Foundation was constituted by the Government of India, Department of Culture, to support library development programmes of the State Governments. The Foundation has had a few meetings to chalk out its programme of action. It has been decided to assist the State Governments in establishing libraries in the rural areas. Initially the Government of India has placed at the disposal of the Foundation Rs. 5 million to be spent by March 31, 1974. Obviously it is too small an amount to make an impact in a country of the size of India. The success of the Foundation will largely depend upon how generously the Government of India is going to finance the Foundation and how judiciously the funds are going to be spent.

This present state of affairs will not improve unless the country is willing to put in more money in making the recorded knowledge accessible to every citizen. India has, no doubt, done remarkably well since Independence in the development of public library services but she has yet to go a long way.



Kerala with the highest literacy percentage in the country is the only State in South India without a library legislation

Library Legislation in India

PLANNING COMMISSION'S MODEL BILL
CALLS FOR FREE SERVICE FOR ALL

C. A. Augustine
Lecturer in Library Science,
University of Kerala

Public libraries have been accepted as democratic agencies for the education of the citizenry. They are as necessary for the informal and life-long self-education of the people as are schools and colleges for formal education and cannot therefore be left to the care of private generosity and benefaction. Public funds should be provided for public libraries as for schools and hospitals.

Unesco in its first international declaration on the need and functions of the public library, has stated :

" As a democratic institution operated by the people for the people, the public library should be : established and maintained under clear authority of law : supported wholly or mainly from public funds : open for free use on equal terms to all members of the community, regardless of occupation, creed, class or race".

Government can provide public library service even on executive orders. Why then should legislation be insisted upon in the case of libraries whereas several other social institutions are run by Government without any particular legislative base ?

The answer to this question is simple. Certainty in the structure, management and resources and consistency in policy are the most basic requisites for the proper establishment, organisation and maintenance of a system of public library service. Executive orders cannot guarantee this certainty. They are liable to change in person and policy. But a law, once enacted is almost permanent; if there is a change, it will normally be for a better law.

Main objectives

The main objectives of public library legislation should be:

(i) to guarantee the establishment, development and maintenance of an integrated library service through a network of libraries throughout the State :

(ii) to create necessary library agencies and to define their powers and functions so that the library system may work along the most effective and economic lines ;

(iii) to ensure efficiency of service through the setting up of a Department of Public Libraries and through the employment of library personnel who are qualified and competent to organise the services on systematic lines ;

(iv) to provide for adequate financial support on a progressive basis through library cess and/or through other means ;

(v) to ensure development of libraries on an approved and uniform pattern and according to accepted standards ;

(vi) to ensure that library service will be provided free to all, regardless of occupation, creed, class or race ; and

(vii) to ensure that public library service is free from political and other influence and all shades of opinion are duly represented in the book collections.

The practice of running tax-supported public libraries had its beginning in the U. S. A. in 1840. In that year the legislature of Massachusetts, enacted a Local Library Act which empowered the City of Boston to levy a tax for supporting the Boston Public Library. In 1849 New Hampshire passed a separate Act for the " Establishment of Public Libraries". The British Public Libraries and Museum Act of 1850 was a permissive Act and not a compelling one, which allowed town councils having a population of 10,000 or more to levy a rate not more than half penny per pound of property tax. The British Act of 1850 was later extended to Ireland in 1855 and the British Parliament passed the first Library Act for New Zealand in 1867. Canada had her first Library Act in 1851 for the States of Ontario and Quebec.

Argentina had an Act in 1870. Japan was the first Asian country to have a library legislation which was enacted in 1899.

Ranganathan Model

Attempts at public library legislation started in India in 1925 when the late Dr. S. R. Ranganathan returned after his library education in England. In 1930 he presented a Model Library Act for Indian States in the first All-Asia Educational Conference held at Banaras. The draft met with the general approval of many like-minded persons who participated in the Conference.

The Model Act provided for (i) the establishment and maintenance of a system of public libraries and for the comprehensive development and organisation of city, rural and other classes of library service in the State; (ii) the Minister for Education to be the State Library Authority responsible for the promotion and organisation of a library system; (iii) a State Librarian to be the Head of the Department of public Libraries; (iv) a State Library Committee for advising the State Library Authority on matters relating to public library service; (v) a Local Library Authority for every city with a population of 50,000 or more, and for every district; (vi) a library cess to be levied by each Local Library Authority at a rate to be determined from time to time; and (vii) the obligation on the part of the local bodies to levy the library cess and on the part of the State Governments to give grants for providing public library service.

Dr. Ranganathan later published this Model Act in his works *Five Laws of Library Science* (1930) and *Library Development Plan* (1950). This model was subjected to revision in 1964 in the light of the later experiences of the author. The major changes were (i) the replacement of the Minister for Education by a body corporate to be the State Library Authority and (ii) the introduction of a wider tax base for the library cess.

Dr. Ranganathan's endeavour for library legislation in the States was incessant. He "devoted a life-time to the problem....and nearly every Indian State has been in consultation with him at one time or another over legislation". He drafted a bill for Bengal in 1931. But it could not be passed in the Bengal legislature, the main reason being the compulsory financial clause in the bill. In 1933 he drafted a bill for the Madras State This came out of the Select Committee stage, but was not passed. Another unsuccessful attempt was made in Madras in 1937. His third attempt in Madras in 1946 became fruitful, though the final Act showed serious changes from his own draft. Dr. Ranganathan drafted bills for several other States Central Provinces (1946), Cochin (1947), Travancore (1947), Bombay (1947), United Provinces (1949), Hyderabad (1953), Madhya Pradesh (1957), Andhra Pradesh (1957), West Bengal (1958), Uttar Pradesh (1958), Kerala (1960), Mysore (1961) and Assam (1964).

Unremitting Efforts

Besides Dr. Ranganathan, a few others also have drafted bills for certain States. For example, P. N. Kaula drafted in 1955 one for Kashmir and another for Delhi, and R. L. Mittal for Punjab in 1962. The Government of India also drew the attention of the State Governments to the need for library legislation. In 1960, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Libraries, a committee under the chairmanship of M. D. Sen was appointed to draft a model library bill. The bill drafted was later sent to all the State Governments. Again in 1965, a slightly revised version of the above model bill was issued to the State Governments by the Working Group on Libraries in the Planning Commission. In spite of all these unremitting efforts by people like Dr. Ranganathan and his disciples, the various State Library Associations, and the special initiative shown by the Union Government, only four States have so far enacted library laws. (Madras Public Library Act, 1948, Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, 1955; which was later replaced by the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960; Mysore Public Libraries Act, 1965; and Maharashtra Public Libraries Act, 1967).

Comparative Study

Although Madras was the first State to pass library legislation in the country, it is generally agreed that its Act is defective in many respects. The Andhra Act is a great improvement on the former, correcting many of its defects. The Mysore Act has

taken features from both these previous ones and is a further improvement on them. The Maharashtra Act has more differences than agreement with the other Acts. A comparative study of these Acts in respect of some of their salient features would be worthwhile.

The organisation of a comprehensive library service in the State through the establishment and maintenance of public libraries is the purpose behind all the Acts. Both the Madras and Mysore Acts have qualified their purpose as the organisation of a comprehensive "rural and urban" library service. The Hyderabad Act had agreed with them. But the Maharastra Act only seeks "to provide for the establishment, maintenance, organisation and development of public libraries in the State". The omission of the phrase "comprehensive library service" is a very glaring one.

What is a Public Library

What is then a public library? As for the Madras Act, it is only "a library established or maintained by a Local Library Authority and includes the branches and delivery stations of such library. In the other Acts, Libraries run by the Government or by the local bodies that are open to the public and aided libraries are also brought into the scope of a public library's definition. But one may note that none of the Acts has incorporated the internationally accepted characteristic of a public library in the definition, namely that its service should be free fol all. The Planning Commission's Model Library Birl has done this. It has defined a public library as "a library within the public library system of the State maintained from public funds which permits borrowing without charging any fees, deposits, subscriptions, or asking for any other forms of guarantee". The Madras Act on the contrary has even permitted the Local Library Authorities to make regulations providing for admission fees. The Andhra Act has prescribed that no admission fee shall be charged, but it is not clear whether a fee can be charged for borrowing books.

Three-Tier Structure

A three—tier structure is the pattern introduced by all the Acts. At the topmost tier, there is the State Central Library, which is the apex of the public library system in the State, to function as the central reservoir and also as a reference library. At the second tier, a bipartite organisation of rural and urban services is provided for.

Since the nature of services needed by the urban people and rural people varies, separate organisations for the two categories are justifiable. Moreover, the financial resources that the city areas can command will be considerably more than the rural areas. Thc specialised and more expensive services that the city people need can be met from their own resources. To club urban areas and rural areas as single units may result in the dissipation and draining away of the resources of urban areas.

For providing a separate city library service, the norm prescribed in the Mysore Act is a municipal area with a population of 10,000 or more. There are five such city library areas now in Mysore. In the Madras Act, there is provision for only one, namely Madras city, in the Andhra Act, one for Hyderabad and Secunderabad; and in the Maharashtra Act, one for Greater Bombay. The Madras, Andhra and Mysore Acts provide for a City Central Library for each of the prescribed city areas and a District Central Library for each of the rural areas. The Maharashtra Act has provision for a City Central Library for Greater Bombay and Divisional Library for each Division.

In the third tier of the public library system, there are the Branch Libraries, Delivery Stations and Mobile Libraries which are owned and operated by the Central Libraries. The Maharashtra Act does not go beyond the second tier to provide state-owned public libraries, but relies on local bodies, societies or trusts in giving library service in local areas.

Viable Units

In this three-tier set up, each Local Library Authority is a viable unit, almost self-contained with a common book stock, integrated service and a unified management while the state-wide network is completed by the State Central Library functioning as the common reservoir. However, it may be noted that in Madras, the State Central Library has no duties in regard to the District Libraries, nor have the District Libraries to each other.

Frank M Gardner points out that the Madras Act[2] does not in any way create a system of libraries. Both the Madras and Andhra Acts cause a parallel system of libraries to be developed side by side with the public library system, namely that of grant-in-aid libraries. The Director of Public Libraries is empowered to decide about their eligibility for government grant subject to their satisfying the prescribed conditions. But there appears to be no provision for the eventual merging of these libraries with the public library system.

Final Authority Advisory

In all the four Acts, a body corporate is constituted at the State level with statutory powers and functions. In Madras and Andhra, it is called the State Library Committee, in Maharashtra the State Library Council, and in Mysore the State Library Authority. Irrespective of their names, these bodies are mainly advisory in nature while the final authority rests with the State Governments. Thus, the scheme does not differ practically from what was prescribed in the Model Library Act (1930) of Dr. Ranganathan, namely "the Minister for Education shall be the State Library Authority".

The constitution of the corporate bodies in the Acts

is partly by nomination and partly by election from different sections of the community more concerned with the public library services. They include Heads of Government Departments, Legislators, Syndicate members of Universities, nominees of State Library Associations and experts in library science. The membership is 17 in Madras, 27 in Andhra, 20 in Mysore and about 22 in Maharashtra. The Minister for Education is the Chairman and the State Librarian or the Director of Libraries is the Secretary of the Committee, except in Madras where the Special Officer assisting the Director is the Secretary. In Mysore, the State Librarian is the *ex officio* Secretary of the Authority but he is not a member.

Each local library area, whether urban or rural, will have its own Local Library Authority duly constituted for the purpose. The City Library Authority or the Distric Library Authority will be responsible for the establishment, organisation and development of public library service in its area of jurisdiction subject to the approval of the State Library Authority. The constitution of these authorities, again, is partly by election and partly by nomination from various sections of the community and officials.

Administration and Control

All the Acts have laid down provisions for a separate Department in the Government for the administration and control of the public library system, headed by a Director of Libraries. In Mysore, he is designated as State Librarian. Both Mysore and Maharashtra Acts have stipulated that he shall be a whole-time officer with prescribed qualifications. The Madras and Andhra Acts are silent on this point. Had the necessary library science qualification for the Director been prescribed in the Act, non-librarians without technical know-how and professional spirit of service could have been prevented from being appointed to this key post. In Madras, until recently, the Director of Public Instruction, a layman as far as library service is concerned, was designated as the Director of Public Libraries.

Except for the Maharashtra Act every Library Act has introduced a library cess. In Maharashtra, the public library finance constitutes Government contribution of a sum not less than Rs 25 lakh every year. In Madras, the library cess is in the form of a surcharge on property tax or house tax at the rate of six paisa per rupee. In Andhra, it is four paisa per rupee. In either case the rate can be enhanced by the Government, but in Andhra, this is subject to a limit of eight paisa. There is a provision, in both cases, for matching grant by the government, of a sum not less than the cess collected by the Local Library Authorities in their areas. The cess rate in Mysore is three paisa per rupee as surcharge on tax on land and buildings in the District Library Authority areas. In the city areas, the tax base is wider. In addition to the tax on land and buildings, tax on entry of goods into the area for consumption, use or sale, tax on vehicles and tax on professions, trades, callings and employment constitute the base for library cess. The rate can also be enhanced up to six paisa. There is also provision for giving Government grant to Local Library Authorities to the tune of three per cent of the land revenue collected in the district. All the Acts provide for special government grants for specific purposes.

Legislation in Kerala

Mention was made about the library bills drafted by Dr. Ranganathan in 1946 for the erstwhile States of Cochin and Travancore. These were on the initiative of the late Shri Panampilli Govinda Menon, the then Minister for Education in Cochin and the late Dr. C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer, the then Dewan of Travancore. Dr. Ranganathan had also appended to these bills a thirty-year library development plan for each of the States In 1959 he was again approached, this time by Shri E. M. S Namboodiripad, the then Chief Minister of Kerala and Shri Joseph Mundasserry, the then Minister for Education. He visited Kerala as a consultant to the Government for advice on the development of the library system in the State and a library legislation. Soon afterwards he presented his *Library Development Plan for Kerala State* and a draft library bill.

In several respects this draft bill was an improvement on the Madras Act, and at the same time in agreement with the main provisions of the Model Act, 1930. One main difference from the Model Act was regarding the Local Library Authorities for urban and rural areas. These were to be constituted separate from the Corporation Council and the District Boards. The draft bill included a library cess in the form of a surcharge on the house tax in the urban areas and on the basic land tax in the rural areas, at the rate of five per cent on the former and two percent on the latter, or alternatively at five per cent on both. This bill could not be presented in the legislature on account of the premature fall of the E. M. S. Ministry.

The succeeding Governments also proposed legislation for libraries but due to one reason or the other their attempts did not bear fruit. One of the reasons was the differences of opinion among those concerned over the pattern of legislation. The present Government has also circulated among the legislators a draft bill, namely the Kerala Public Libraries Bill, 1971. It is hoped that this will come up for discussion in the Assembly before long.

Kerala Public Libraries Bill, 1971

The main provisions in the Kerala Public Libraries Bill, 1971 are for:-

(i) The establishment and maintenance of public libraries, and the development and organisation of a comprehensive rural and urban library service in Kerala.

(ii) A State Library Authority as a body corporate with powers and functions like advising the

Government on all matters connected with the administration of the Act, co-ordinating the working of the District Library Authorities, superintending and directing all matters relating to library service in the State, and appointing and controlling officers and servants for the public library system. The Minister for Education is the Chairman and the Director of Libraries the Secretary of the Authority. Members include nominees of the Government, representatives of all universities in the State, Kerala Grandhasala Sangham, District Library Authorities, literary and cultural organisations like the Sahitya, Sangeetha-Nataka, and Lalitha Kala Akademies and so on. The Kerala Grandhasala Sangham gets the largest representation as a single organisation.

(iii) A District Library Authority for each of the districts in the State. It shall be a body corporate with representation in it for those who are concerned with library service in the district. Each District Library Authority shall be responsible, for providing library service to the persons residing in the district, and to supervise, co-ordinate and control the library service in the district. It may prepare a District Library Development Plan for establishing, co-ordinating and spreading library service within the district and implement the same on obtaining the sanction from the Governmet.

(iv) Each District Library Authority shall levy a library cess of not more than 10 per cent of the property tax. Government may make an annual grant to every District Library Authority, of a sum not below the amount collected by way of library cess.

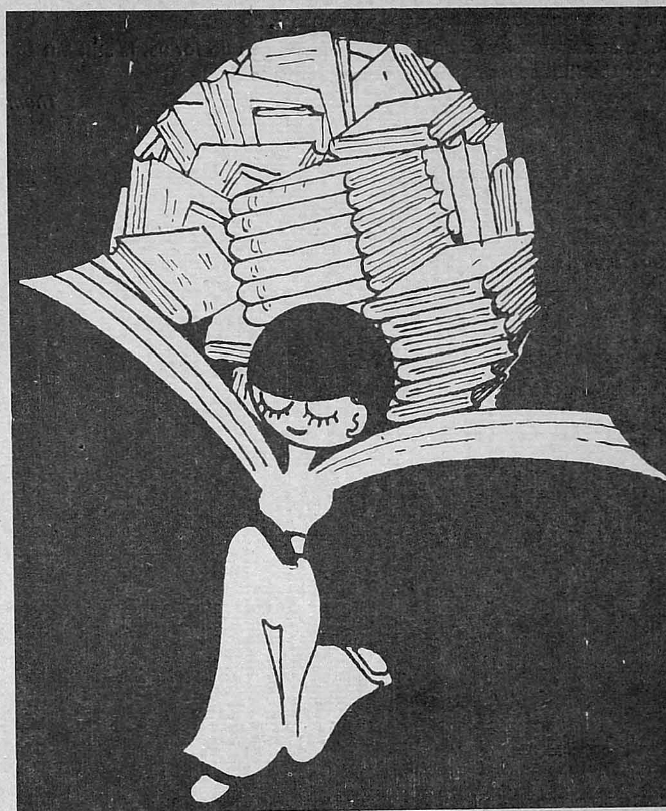
(v) The bill provides for a separate Department of Libraries with a Director of Libraries having the prescribed qualifications, as Head of the Department. He shall be the chief executive officer of the State Library Authority with prescribed powers and functions.

(vi) It lays down that all libraries affiliated to the Kerala Grandhasala Sangham in each district be transferred to the District Library Authority of that district, with their assets, liabilities and staff.

The Kerala Public Libraries Bill, 1971 is not free from defects. A critical study of the bill is not attempted here for want of space. Criticisms have arisen from all quarters against some provisions or the other in the bill. However, considering that the purpose of library legislation is to bring about an integrated public library system in the State and to make statutory provisions for adequate financial support to such a system, this bill can, with necessary modifications, form a basis for a library legislation suited for our State. It is a paradox that Kerala with its highest rate of literacy is the only State in South India which has no library legislation. This drawback has to be remedied at the earliest so that we can keep pace with the development of the neighbouring States.

1 *Gardner, Frank M. Public Library Legislation ; A Comparative Study (Paris, Unesco, 1971). P 272*

2 Ibid *P. 266*



WORLD'S FOREMOST LIBRARIES

THUMB
NAIL
SKETCHES

All that Mankind has done, thought, gained, or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of Books . . .
All that a university of final highest school can do for us, is still but what the first school began doing-teach us to read–

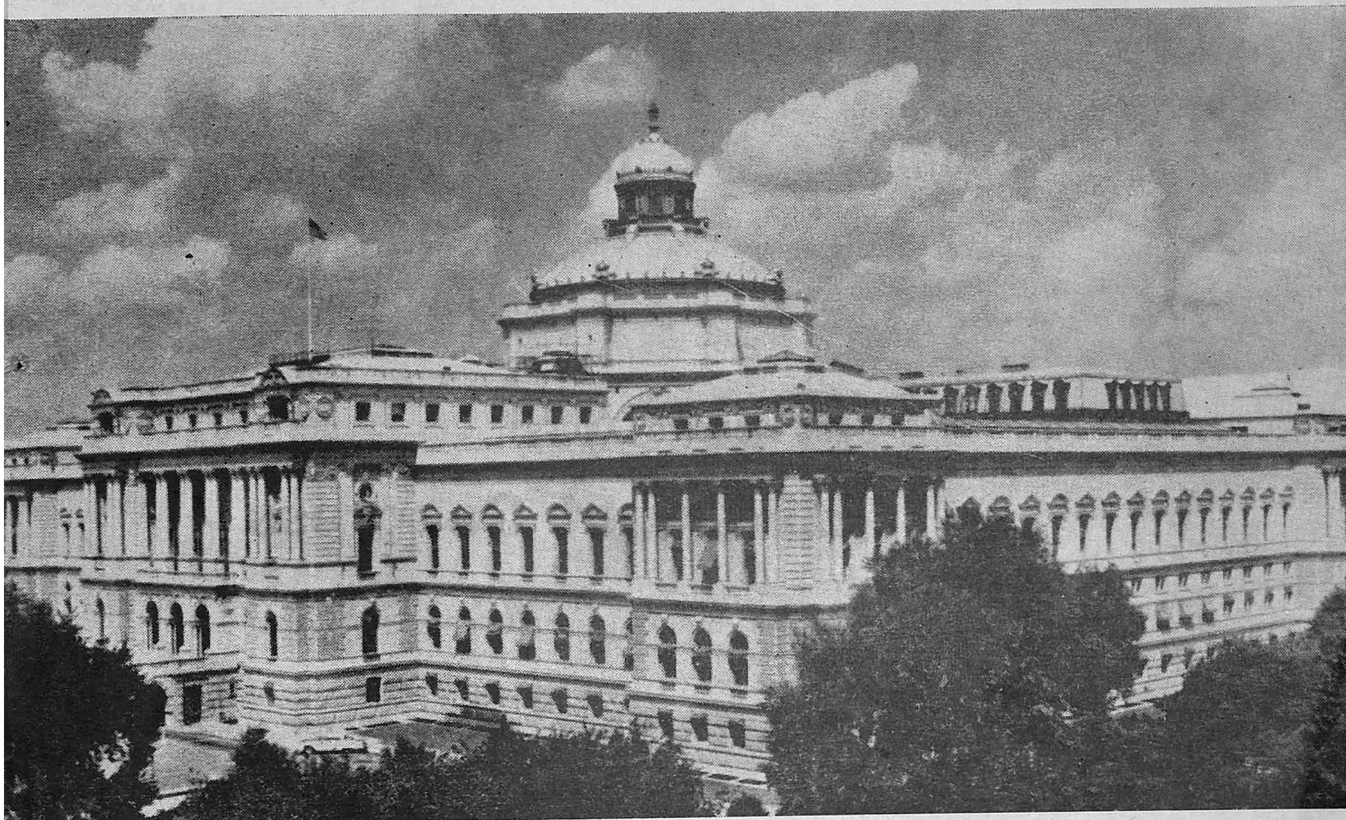
Thomas Carlyle

Every man who knows how to read has it in his power to magnify himself, to multiply the ways in which he exists, to make his life full, significant and interesting.

Aldous Huxley

What is needed is not this or that specific piece of information, but such knowledge as inspires a conception of the ends of human life as a whole: art and history, acquaintance with the lives of heroic individuals, and some understanding of the strangely accidental and ephemeral position of man in the cosmos - all this touched with an emotion of pride in what is distinctively human, the power to see and to know, to feel magnanimously and to think with understanding.

Bertrand Russell



U. S. Library of Congress main building, in Italian Renaissance style, sits on Capitol Hill The building was erected in 1897.

The U. S. Library of Congress in Washington was founded in 1800, and became the national library of the United States of America. With its magnificent collections of books, manuscripts, music, prints and maps, the Library of Congress is now one of the greatest libraries in the world.

The library has 85,200,777 books, pamphlets, manuscripts, music, microfilms, recordings, photographic prints, of which 16,022,327 are books and pamphlets. Through deposit under the Copyright Law, exchanges with foreign governments and learned societies, and purchase, it adds over 20,000,000 pieces to its collection each year.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST

Library of Congress

GREATEST NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CULTURE, RESEARCH AND AMERICANA IN THE U. S. A.

Michael J. Bandler

A towering old building across the plaza from the east front of the United States Capitol houses the omnifunctional U. S. Library of Congress. No site in the United States is the focal point for a broader series of activities than the ornate, Italian Renaissance structure standing alongside the gleaming white building that houses the Supreme Court of the United States.

Created in 1800 by an Act of Congress, the Library has as its primary responsibility the providing of reference and research data to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives. In addition to acquiring and organising the materials, the Library conducts research on legislative issues for individual Congressmen and Congressional committees. The Congress, in turn, shares the material with the public, with the other branches of the Federal Government and with the State Governments.

Built during the 1890's to store material that outgrew its original facilities in the Capitol, the Library has played numerous roles over the past six decades—as one of the three national libraries and research centres; as a combination museum-gallery-archive and as a hub of cultural activities.

This, of course, is only the beginning. The latest annual report of the Library reveals a host of projects, including overseas operations, services to the blind and preservation and restoration of maps and other items.

During the fiscal year July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1969 — the most recent period for which statistics are available — the library acquired 367,156 new books and pamphlets, more than 13,000 reels of newspapers and microfilm and some 467,000 manuscripts. The Library has over 29 million manuscripts, about 14.5 million volumes and pamphlets and more than three million maps. This wealth of material is in the main building, an annex built in 1939, and in eleven other buildings in the Washington area.

In 1901, the Congress authorised a distribution service for the Library's printed catalogue cards, and the institution now serves as a cataloguing and bibliographic center for private, municipal and academic libraries across the nation. Cataloguing information is now being transferred to computers. The Library's national union catalogue provides monthly information in America's library resources, reporting where important research papers and books can be found in the major libraries of the United States and Canada.

As one of the nation's three national research centres - the others are the National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine - the Library of Congress offers direct service to the public. One need not apply for membership to use the research facilities in the stucco-domed reading room and its stacks.

Always alert for new ideas, the Library in 1962 initiated one of its most ambitious projects, its overseas operations. Using funds available under U. S. aid programs involving sales of agricultural products in other countries, the Library began acquiring books, periodicals and documents from India, Pakistan and the United Arab Republic for designated American Libraries. The money was also used to pay local staffs in the first two offices, established in Cairo and New Delhi. The programme has been extended to Israel, Indonesia, Nepal, Ceylon and Yugoslavia.

Overseas Operations

More than 40 private and public libraries across the nation participate in the project, receiving both foreign-language and English publications from the seven countries. Yale University and the New York Public Library system are examples of reference systems that receive sets of material from all seven countries.

A second overseas project—the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloguing (NPAC)—was devised in 1965 to provide cataloguing for American Libraries on a national basis. Before then, research libraries in the United States were compelled to catalogue foreign books by themselves; this led to competition for scarce cataloguers and to a wasteful duplication of effort. NPAC, which formed part of the Higher Education Act of 1965, provided the solution.

One of the more important roles of the Library over the past century has been as registrar of creative work in various fields. Literature, motion pictures, music, advertising and art—for copyright in the United States.



Main reading room in the Library of Congress. It can accommodate 128 readers at the spacious circular desks. Researchers make their selections from the card catalogue files and present their slips to the librarians standing at the circular desk in the centre. The selection is procured from the Library's 11 million books and pamphlets and within minutes, the scholar's books are brought to his desk.



Copyright Registration

The copyright registration function was centralised in the Library in 1870. Over the years, it has grown, as has the copyright office, to deal with the substantial increase in number of items submitted for registration. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969, nearly 327,000 applications and documents were submitted.

Works deposited in the copyright office may be selected for the Library's collections.

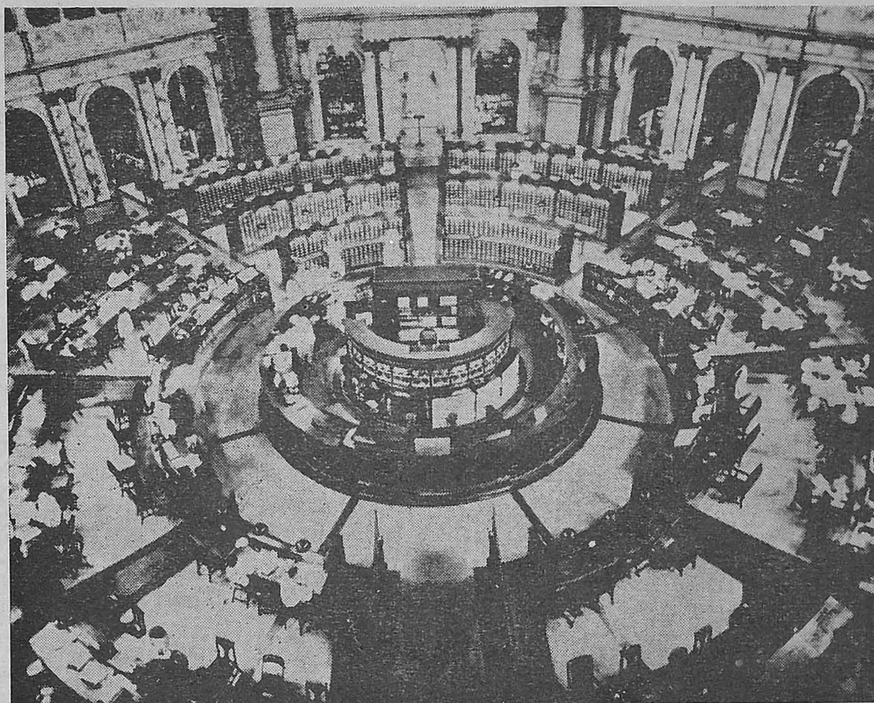
Visitors to the Library of Congress, more often than not, take a guided tour that emphasises the majestic main reading room, with its brown and red-brown marble walls and its eight alcoves, on three levels behind Renaissance marble arches. But a quiet, unescorted stroll through some of the more secluded corridors reveals many fascinating exhibits that are changed periodically. One dark, untravelled hallway, for example, recently bade visitors to recall "games people played". In lighted glass cases stretched over two wings, the exhibit of posters, musical accres and advertisements portrayed the leisure–

Archive of Folk Song in the Library of Congress, Washington. The Archive, which was established in 1928, has the largest collection of folk music and folk music reference books in the United States.

Coolidge Auditorium of the Library is the centre of cultural activities, which range from music to poetry readings and from film to drama. The Juilliard String Quartet, pictured here, is one of the popular attractions.



The main reference and reading room of the Library



time activities of Americans during the latter half of the 19th century—from fishing to horse racing.

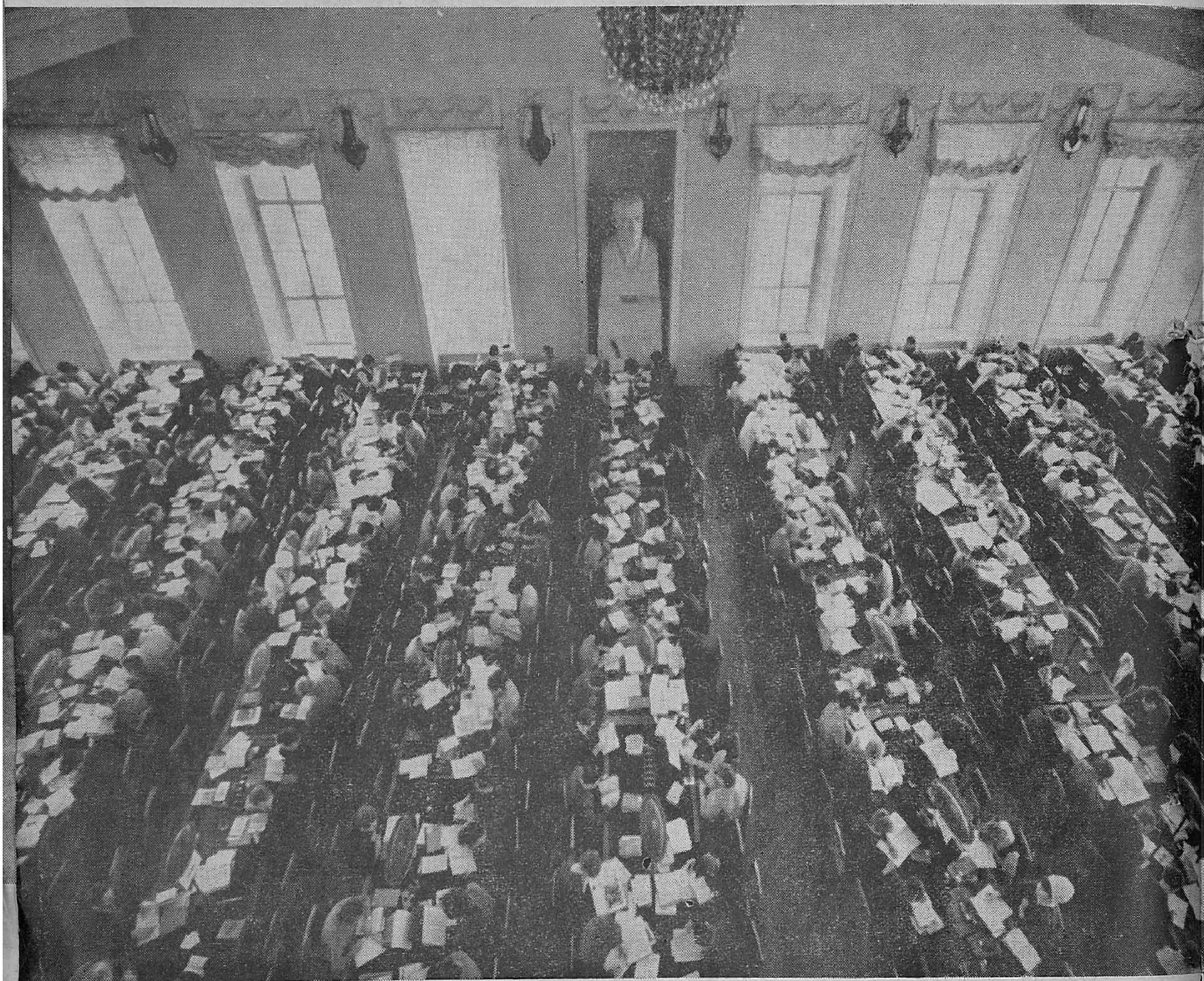
In another location — the central corridor of the tourists' entrance — posters depicted life at the turn of the century in France, England, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States. Also on view were manuscripts, maps and rare books commemorating the tricentennial of the State of South Carolina, and high-quality graphic art produced in Eastern Europe in recent years.

History bursts into life in the main building's second floor permanent exhibit area, featuring collections of rare books and manuscripts. Included are an engrossed copy of the Bill of Rights and a rough draft of the Declaration of Independance, memoranda handwritten by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson ; first and third Presidents of the United States ; and documents and letters drafted by Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

The Library of Congress takes pride in its cultural activities, as well as its better advertised research functions. The weekly concert programme in the Coolidge Auditorium are popular and inexpensive : the admission price is only 25 cents, for which the audience can hear such outstanding groups as the Juilliard String Quartet and the New York Pro Musics as well as popular soloists.

Under the leadership of the Consultant in Poetry—appointed by the Library for a two-year term—the institution sponsors periodic literary events, more often than not serving as a springboard for young poets. The most significant event of 1970 was the International Poetry Festival, which brought together a number of poets from other countries for readings and discussions of the nature of the art.

With its collection of 60 million pieces and its seven-day-a-week service to the public day and night, the Library of Congress plays a role whose scope was nnforeseen by its founders 170 years ago.



The general reading hall of the Lenin Library, Moscow

The Lenin State Library is one of the largest in the world. The Soviet people take pride in the library which is visited by hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens and foreign guests from many countries. There are over twenty six million volumes in the library. Hundreds of books, journals and newspapers from more than a hundred countries of the world come in daily.

The reader can get a copy of almost any of the 550,000 books put out on the territory of Russia in the period between 1564 and 1917 and of the million volumes put out during 56 years of Soviet power.

Some 8000 Soviet newspapers, 16,000 foreign juornals and about 1000 foreign newspapers are at the readers' disposal in a special hall of current periodicals. It is daily visited by 10000 Muscovites, people from other towns and villages and foreign readers. Conveyors, narrow-gauge railway and pneumatic shuttles help the librarian.

The readers receive 40,000 — 45,000 books a day in the 22 reading rooms.

OVER 26 MILLION VOLUMES

Lenin State Library

HUNNDREDS OF BOOKS AND JOURNALS COME IN DAILY FROM A HUNDRED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

Elvira Kuzina
Deputy Chief of the International Book Department at the Lenin State Library Exchange

Maxim Gorky wrote half a century ago: "A book is, perhaps, the most difficult and greatest miracle of all miracles created by man on his path to happiness and a bright future." Today, when the peoples of the world are marking the International Book Year, these words ring out with new strength.

Soviet people love books. By avid reading they benefit themselves as best as they can. There are 360,000 libraries in the U. S. S. R. And there are different types of them: mass, technical, educational, scientific as well as children's and many others. These libraries have a total stock of 3,300 million volumes. In this vast country, there is not a single populated centre without a library or its branch, or mobile libraries. In the U. S. S. R. there are 180 million readers; every third person makes use of library books.

Three Soviet Libraries—the Lenin Library in Moscow, the Saltykov-Shchedrin and the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the U. S. S. R. in Leningrad—have a total of some 50 million books, magazines annual files of newspapers and other publications.

The Lenin State Library is one of the largest in the world. The Soviet people take pride in the library which is visited by hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens and foreign guests from many countries. There are over 26 million volumes in the library. Hundreds of books, journals and newspapers from more than a hundred countries of the world come in daily.

First Printed Bible

The library has a number of rare books. Such books include the first Russian and West European publications, the incunabula - books published in the 15th century. In the rare books department the visitor will also find a copy of the first printed book—the Bible, printed on Johann Gutenberg's press in 1455; "Apostle", the first Russian book put out by Ivan Fedorov, the pioneer of Russian printing. The first issue of the first Russian printed newspaper **Vedomosti** which came out at the beginning of

1703, and the first book printed by Russian type—"Geometry of Slovenian Geodetics" (1708) are also among pride possessions of the library.

The manuscript department is no less than archives of revolutionaries, statesmen and political leaders. The collection of manuscripts, mainly Russian and Slavic, reaches 30,000 with the earliest of them dating back to the 11th century. Arabic, Greek and Persian manuscripts, autographs by Giordano Bruno, Copernicus, Munster, Voltaire, Rousseau, Walter Scott, Dickens, Goethe, Romain Rolland, Wagner, Liszt, Napoleon and many other well-known represent atives of various epochs and countries are on the department's shelves. There are books by the great Russian writers, Gogol, Turgenev, Nekrasov, Dostoyevsky, Chekhov and Korelenko.

Ten Thousand Visitors

The reader can get a copy of almost any of the 550,000 books published in the territory of Russia in the period between 1564 and 1917 and of the 2 million volumes put out during 56 years of Soviet power.

Some 8,000 Soviet newspapers, 16,000 foreign journals and about 1,000 foreign newspapers are at the reader's disposal in a special hall of current periodicals.

In the U. S. S. R., every third person makes use of library books.

Some statistics will give an idea of the scope of the library's work. It is daily visited by 10,000 Muscovites, people from other towns and villages and foreign readers. Conveyors, narrow gauge railway and pneumatic shuttles help the librarian. The readers receive 40,000—45,000 books a day in the 22 reading rooms.

Information in writing, orally over the phone or teletype is given in reply to more than 130,000 enquiries made by readers annually.

Ready Assistance

The reader, no matter how educated he may be, needs the help of a librarian. Catalogues, card and bibliographical indices, book exhibitions, all this done by the librarians, help to provide the necessary information. Electronic computers help considerably. The specialists in different branches of science, technology, national economy and culture are readily provided with bibliographic information. The libraries in the country and their numerous readers can receive effective information on new publications issued throughout the world.

The books must be preserved for our descendants for centuries to come. That is why good care must be taken of them. As time passes, the paper becomes brittle and fragile, the text fades and sometimes even becomes extinct. In order to extend a book's life, it must have the necessary climate, optimal conditions of storage, a definite temperature and air humidity. The system of ventilation and air conditioning at the Lenin Library ensures such conditions. The hygiene and restoration department "treats" books: a book comes out "rejuveneted", paper is covered with polymeric substance and is laminated, the leather covers of old books and parchment manuscripts are made softer.

The Lenin Library is a centre of scientific thinking in library science, in the theory of bibliography and book history. Its staff members are engaged in numerous scientific research projects. They devote attention to the use of mass media (radio, television, press) to popularise books, to scientific principles of locating libraries, to centralising the library servicing of the population and many other subjects.

The library publishes works of its own such as "Notes of the Manuscript Department", collections like "Libraries in USSR", and "Library Science and Bibliography Abroad", major bibliographies, methodological appliances and recommendations. All these help the librarians in popularising books and in moulding the reading public.



SEVEN MILLION VOLUMES

British Museum Library

EXHIBITS FROM ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London, is one of the great national libraries of the world, the home of a very comprehensive collection of printed books and manuscripts, in both western and oriental languages, of maps, of music and of prints and drawings. It is also the National Museum of Archaeology, containing a very large number of works of art other than paintings, from all lands and of every period right down to the present.

A section of the gallery of the famous Reading Room at the British Museum



A general view of the Reading Room at the British Museum. Its dome is the second largest in the world.



The reading room, built between 1854 and 1857, is also very famous. It was built at the insistence of Antonio Panizzi, Keeper (and later Principal Keeper) of the Department of Printed Books, and its dome is the second largest in the world.

The library itself contains over seven million volumes, partly as a result of gifts, bequests, purchases and international exchanges and partly because of the provisions of the Copyright Act 1911, under which a copy of every book, periodical and newspaper published in Britain must be deposited in the museum. The government's proposals to combine the British Museum library with certain others to create a single national libraries organisation (The British Library), with new buildings for the reference and research section near the British Museum in Bloomsbury, were published early in 1971.

During recent years the museum has expanded its services in order to meet a growing demand Besides the production of photographs, guides, handbooks and scholarly monographs the museum now has a fast expanding microfilm and photocopying service. In addition, the methods of displaying the exhibits have been greatly improved with modern techniques, and among other developments is the work of the research laboratory on methods of determining the age of archaeological specimens by radio carbon dating, and the evolution of new techniques of conservation and restoration.

The museum's creation was largely a matter of chance. In 1735, Parliament was persuaded to enact a Bill for the acquisition of two very important private collections and for the establishment of a museum to house these and other items. The repository eventually chosen was Montagu House, Bloomsbury, London, which, however, required several years for renovation and conversion, and the museum was opened to the public in 1759. Later, between 1823 and 1847, the young architect Robert Smirke created a new building, which became the museum virtually as it is today.

The exhibits themselves include examples from the ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, African and European cultures. The Egyptian mummies are especially famous.



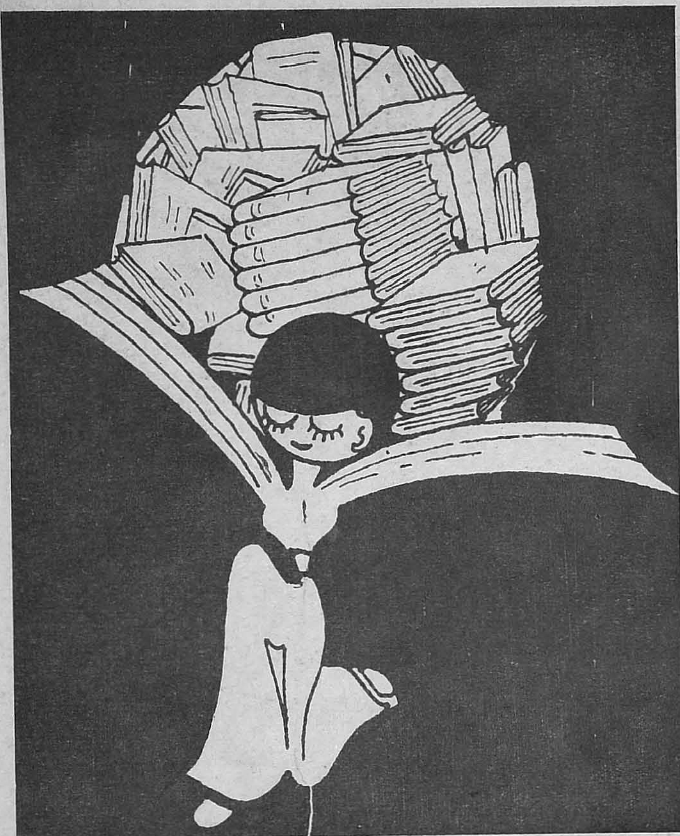
Harvard undergraduates in the only library on the university's campus built expressly for their use. Its facilities include private study cubicles.

Harvard University Library

WORLD'L LARGEST UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Founded in 1638 with 400 books donated by John Harvard, now more than three centuries later, the Harvard University Library is the largest university library in the world, and it is the second largest of any kind in the United States, the first being the U. S. Library of Congress in Washington. The library has 8,500,000 volumes, 50,000 current periodicals, 58,000 microfilm reels and 700,000 other units of microtext. In addition to its central library, it has libraries connected with the university's different departments, its many museums, laboratories and research institutes and offices.

Scholars from all parts of the world look to the Harvard Library for the numerous collections of breadth and validity it has built in many fields. Its collections extend beyond the horizon of the United States, and covers subjects such as Central European history, Icelandic literature, mediaeval romances, and even Sanskrit. It is rich in its collections of incunabula, law, anthropology, literary manuscripts and fine arts.



വിശ്വവിഖ്യാതമായ ഏഴ് ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ

കെ. എം. ഗോവി

അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് എഡിററർ, ഇൻഡ്യൻ നാഷണൽ ബിബ്ലിയോഗ്രാഫി, നാഷണൽ ലൈബ്രറി, കൽക്കത്ത

ലോകത്തിലെ ഏററവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ചില ലൈബ്രറികളെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള സംക്ഷിപ്തമെങ്കിലും രസകരമായ വിവരണങ്ങളാണ് ഇതിലുള്ളത്. മൂലധനത്തിന്റെ കർത്താവായ കാൾ മാർക്സ് ഉൾപ്പെടെ ലോകത്തിന്റെ വിവിധ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുള്ള ബുദ്ധിജീവികൾക്ക് എന്നും പ്രചോദനകരമായി വർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മ്യൂസിയത്തെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള കുറിപ്പോടെ ഇതാരംഭിക്കുന്നു. സാറിസ്റ്റ് റഷ്യയിലെ രാഷ്ട്രതന്ത്രജ്ഞന്റെ സ്വകാര്യ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരത്തിൽനിന്നാരംഭിച്ച സോവിയററ് റിപ്പബ്ളിക്കുകളുടെ കേന്ദ്ര ലൈബ്രറിയായിത്തീന്ന ലെനിൻ ലൈബ്രറി, മാർപ്പാപ്പമാരുടെ സാഹിത്യാഭിരുചികൾ പ്രതിഫലിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു കാരണം ഒരു കുടുംബ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരമായി ചിലർ വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുന്ന വത്തിക്കാൻ ലൈബ്രറി, ഫ്രെഞ്ച് രാജാക്കന്മാരുടെ പുസ്തകശേഖരണശീലത്തിന്റെ നിത്യസ്മാരകമായി പ്രശോഭിക്കുന്ന ബിബ്ളിയോഥേക് നാഷ്യോണാൽ, 20 ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം പുസ്തകങ്ങളും ഒരേ സമയത്ത് 1700 പേർക്ക് വായിക്കാനും പഠിക്കാനുമുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങളുമുള്ള ഓക്സ്ഫോർഡിലെ ബോഡ്ലിയൻ ലൈബ്രറി, പുസ്തകങ്ങളും കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും പ്രിന്റുകളും മററുമടക്കം 61 കോടിയിലധികം ഇനങ്ങളുള്ള അമേരിക്കൻ കോൺഗ്രസ് ലൈബ്രറി, കല്ക്കത്തയിൽ ഒരു സിവിൽ സർജന്റെ വസതിയുടെ താഴത്തെ നിലയിൽ എളിയ നിലയിൽ ആരംഭിച്ച്, ഇപ്പോൾ ബെൽവെഡിയർ കൊട്ടാരത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ഇന്ത്യയുടെ ദേശീയ ലൈബ്രറി എന്നിവയുമായി നിങ്ങൾക്ക് ഈ പേജുകളിലൂടെ പരിചയപ്പെടാം.

ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മ്യൂസിയം

ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയുടെ ഉപദേശത്തിനെതിരായി പാർലമെൻറംഗങ്ങൾ മുൻകയ്യെടുത്തു സ്ഥാപിച്ച ലണ്ടനിലെ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മ്യൂസിയത്തിന് പുസ്തകസംഖ്യ, ഗവേഷണപാരമ്പര്യം, സേവനസൗകര്യങ്ങൾ എന്നീ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ലോകത്തിൽ അദ്വിതീയ സ്ഥാനമാണുള്ളത്. ലോകമൊട്ടുക്കുള്ള ബുദ്ധിജീവികൾക്ക് എന്നും ഒരു പ്രചോദനകേന്ദ്രമായിരുന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്, ഈ മഹൽസ്ഥാപനം. 'മൂലധന' രചനയ്ക്കു വേണ്ട കരുക്കൾ കാറൽ മാർക്സ് ശേഖരിച്ചത് മ്യൂസിയത്തിൽനിന്നാണല്ലോ.

ഭിഷഗ്വരനും റോയൽ സൊസൈററിയുടെ അധ്യക്ഷനുമായ സർ ഹാൻസ് സ്ലോൺ (Hans Sloane) താൻ ശേഖരിച്ച നിരവധി കൗതുക വസ്തുക്കളും, പഴയ നാണയങ്ങളും, ഷെല്ലുകളും, ഫോസിലുകളും, 3400 കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും അമ്പതിനായിരത്തോളം പുസ്തകങ്ങളും മററും മരണത്തിനു മുമ്പ് രാഷ്ട്രത്തിന് സമ്മാനിച്ചു. ഈ ശേഖരം 20,000 പവന് രാജാവിനു വില്ക്കാൻവേണ്ടി ഏതാണ്ട് എഴുപതോളം ട്രസ്റ്റികളെ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. പ്രധാനമന്ത്രി ശേഖരം വാങ്ങാൻ വിസമ്മതിച്ചപ്പോൾ, ട്രസ്റ്റികൾ പാർലമെൻറിനെ സമീപിക്കുകയും. പാർലമെൻറ് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഹിതത്തിന്നെതിരായി, 1753 ജനുവരി 15-ാം തീയതി മ്യൂസിയ സ്ഥാപനനിയമം പാസ്സാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. രണ്ടു വർഷങ്ങൾക്കു ശേഷം ബ്ലൂംസ്ബറിയിലെ മൊണ്ടേഗു ഹൗസ് ഏറെറടുത്ത് മ്യൂസിയത്തിന്നു സമ്മാനിക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് മടിച്ചില്ല. 1759 ജനുവരി 15-ാം തീയതി മ്യൂസിയത്തിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് പ്രവേശനവും ലഭിച്ചു.

ആദ്യഘട്ടങ്ങളിൽ മാസത്തിൽ അഞ്ചോ, ആറോ വായനക്കാരേ മ്യൂസിയം സന്ദർശിച്ചിരുന്നുള്ളു. 1830ൽ സന്ദർശകരുടെ സംഖ്യ മാസംപ്രതി അമ്പതോളമായി. "കയ്യിൽ പുസ്തകവുമായി തീ കായുന്ന അലസവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളായിരുന്നു" സന്ദർശകരിൽ ഭൂരിഭാഗവും. പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വില കൊടുത്ത് വാങ്ങുന്നതിന് ആക്ടിൽ വ്യവസ്ഥകളില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് പുസ്തകശേഖരവും സമ്പന്നമായിരുന്നില്ല. 1831 ൽ ആൻറണി പനീസി എന്ന ഇററലിക്കാരൻ 'അച്ചടിച്ച പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ കീപ്പറായി നിയമതിനായതോടെയാണ് മ്യൂസിയത്തിൻെറ പ്രവർത്തനപരിധി വിസ്തൃതമായത്. അദ്ദേഹം മ്യൂസിയത്തെ വിശേഷോത്തരഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളിലൊന്നാക്കി. ബ്രിട്ടനിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്ന കൃതികളെല്ലാം ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി പകർപ്പവകാശനിയമം കർശനമായി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താനും പുസ്തക ബജററ് 10000 പവനായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനും അദ്ദേഹം ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചു. പത്തു ലക്ഷം വാല്യങ്ങൾ സൂക്ഷിക്കുവാനും, അഞ്ഞൂറു പേർക്കു ഇരുന്നു വായിക്കാനും. സൗകര്യമുള്ള ഒരു സർക്കുലർ റീഡിംഗ് റൂം 1857ൽ അദ്ദേഹം നിർമ്മിച്ചതോടെ, ബ്രിട്ടൻെറ പദവിക്കനുസരിച്ച ഒരു ദേശീയ ഗ്രന്ഥശാല ഉടലെടുത്തു.

വിവിധ ലോകഭാഷകളിലായി, 1968ൽ 128,706 വാല്യങ്ങൾ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മ്യൂസിയം ശേഖരിക്കുകയുണ്ടായെന്ന വസ്തുതയിൽ നിന്ന് ഈ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയുടെ പുസ്തകസംഭരണ പരിപാടിയുടെ വിപുലത ഊഹിക്കാമല്ലോ. അമൂല്യമായൊരു കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരവുമിവിടെയുണ്ട്. വിഖ്യാതരായ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് സാഹിത്യകാരന്മാരുടെ കൃതികളുടെ കയ്യെഴുത്തു പ്രതികളും, ചരിത്രപ്രധാനമായ നിരവധി രേഖകളും മ്യൂസിയ സമ്പത്തിൽപെടുന്നു.

പൗരസ്ത്യമുദ്രിത ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെയും കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെയും വകുപ്പ് (Department of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts) മ്യൂസിയത്തിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാന വിഭാഗമാണ്. ഏതാണ്ടെല്ലാ പൗരസ്ത്യ ഭാഷകളിലുമുള്ള പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട കൃതികളും രേഖകളും, മാനുസ്ക്രിപ്റ്റ് ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും ഈ വിഭാഗത്തിലുണ്ട്. ആദിമുദ്രിത മലയാള പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ കാതലായൊരംശം അടങ്ങുന്ന മലയാള വിഭാഗത്തിൽ ഏതാണ്ട മൂവായിരത്തോളം പുസ്തകങ്ങളാണിന്നുള്ളത്. പുതിയ മലയാള പുസ്തകങ്ങളും ലണ്ടനിൽ ചെന്നെത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. 1967 വരെ അവിടെ ശേഖരിക്കപ്പെട്ട മലയാള പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ (2000) അച്ചടിച്ച വിശദമായ കാററലോഗ് 1971 ൽ ആൽബർട്ടീൻ ഗൗർ എന്ന മഹിള പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ കാററലോഗിനെ നമ്മുടെ ആദ്യത്തെ അച്ചടിച്ച കാററലോഗ് എന്നു വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ തെററില്ല.

വർഷംതോറും അച്ചടിച്ച ഒരു ലക്ഷം പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വീതം ശേഖരിക്കുന്ന മ്യൂസിയത്തിലെ പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ സംഖ്യ 80 ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം വരും.

ലെനിൻ ലൈബ്രറി

സാറിസ്ററ് റഷ്യയിലെ രാഷ്ട്രതന്ത്രജ്ഞനായിരുന്ന കൗൺട് നിക്കൊലായ് പെട്രോവിച്ച് റൂമിയെൻസേവിന്റെ സ്വകാര്യ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരത്തിൽനിന്ന് വളർന്നു വികസിച്ച വൻകിട ലൈബ്രറിയാണ് സോവിയററ് റഷ്യയുടെ ദേശീയ ഗ്രന്ഥാലയമായ ലെനിൻ സ്റ്റേററ് ലൈബ്രറി. റൂമിയൻസേവ് മ്യൂസിയത്തിലെ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം 1862ൽ പീറേറർസ്ബർഗിൽ നിന്നു മോസ്കോ നഗരത്തിലേക്കു മാററി. ഇരുപതു പേർക്ക് ഇരിക്കാനുള്ള സൗകര്യവും ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തോളം പുസ്തകങ്ങളുമായി ആരംഭിച്ച ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിലെ പുസ്തകസംഖ്യ 1917ൽ പത്തു ലക്ഷമായി. വിപ്ലവത്തിനു ശേഷം ലെനിൻെറ നാമധേയം ലൈബ്രറിക്കു നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു.

സോവിയററ് റിപ്പബ്ലിക്കുകളുടെ കേന്ദ്ര ലൈബ്രറി, സോവിയററ് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളെല്ലാം സൂക്ഷിച്ചു വയ്ക്കുന്ന ദേശീയ സ്ഥാപനം, ഗ്രന്ഥാലയ തന്ത്രം, ഗ്രന്ഥസൂചി ശാസ്ത്രം, അച്ചടിയുടെ ചരിത്രം എന്നീ വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവേഷണം നടത്തുന്ന സ്ഥാപനം, നാട്ടിലെ മററു ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾക്ക് പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ശുപാർശ ചെയ്യുന്ന കേന്ദ്രം എന്നിവയൊക്കെയാണ് ലെനിൻ ലൈബ്രറി. അയ്യായിരത്തോളം സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾക്ക് പുസ്തകസഹായം ചെയ്യുന്ന ഈ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിൽ 22 വായനശാലകളുണ്ട്. ശരാശരി പതിനായിരത്തോളം സന്ദർശകർ ദിവസേന ഗ്രന്ഥശാല സന്ദർശിക്കുന്നു. ഇവരുപയോഗിക്കുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ സംഖ്യ 30,000 ത്തിനും 5,0000 ത്തിനുമിടക്കു വരും.

1703നുശേഷം പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ച പത്രമാസികയുടെ സമ്പൂർ

ണ്ണ ഫയലുകം, 11 മുതൽ 13 വരെയുള്ള നൂററാണ്ടുകളിലെ 30,000ത്തിൽപരം കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങം, റഷ്യൻ ക്ലാസിക്കുകളുടെ ഒന്നാം പതിപ്പുകം, പത്തൊമ്പതാം നൂററാണ്ടിലെയും ഇരുപതാം നൂററാണ്ടിലെയും ആധുനിക റഷ്യൻ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങം, തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത വിദേശ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങം, റഷ്യയിലെ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരുടേയും സാഹിത്യകാരന്മാരുടേയും സ്വകാര്യ രേഖാശേഖരങ്ങം—ഇവയെല്ലാം ചേർന്നതാണ് ലെനിൻ ലൈബ്രറിയിലെ ബൃഹത് ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം. 1969ൽ 25 മില്യൻ വാല്യങ്ങം ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരത്തിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

സോവിയററ് യൂണിയനിലെ സ്കൂം ലൈബ്രറികം, യുവജന ലൈബ്രറികം, ജില്ലാ ഗ്രന്ഥാലയങ്ങം എന്നിവയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഗ്രന്ഥസൂചികം കാലികമായി തയ്യാറാക്കി പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്ന കൃത്യവും ലെനിൻ ലൈബ്രറിയ്ക്കാണ്. പതിനാറു മുതൽ പത്തൊമ്പതുവരെയുള്ള നൂററാണ്ടുകളിൽ അച്ചടിച്ച പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ ഒരു യൂണിയൻ കാററലോഗ് (കേന്ദ്രീകൃത പട്ടിക) തയ്യാറാക്കുന്ന ക്ലേശകരമായ ജോലി നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നതും ഈ ഗ്രന്ഥാലയം തന്നെ.

വത്തിക്കാൻ ലൈബ്രറി

നവോത്ഥാന കാലഘട്ടത്തിന്റെ സന്തതിയായ വത്തിക്കാൻ ലൈബ്രറിയെ ഒരു കുടുംബഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരമായി ചില ചരിത്രകാരന്മാർ വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കാറുണ്ട്. കുടുംബത്തലവൻെറ ഇഷ്ടാനിഷ്ടങ്ങം ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരത്തിൽ പ്രതിഫലിച്ചു കാണുന്നതുപോലെ, മാർപ്പാപ്പമാരുടെ സാഹിത്യാഭിരുചികളുടെ പ്രതിഫലനം വത്തിക്കാനിലും കാണാം. നവോത്ഥാനകാലത്തെ പൊതുഗ്രന്ഥശാല, കൗണ്ടർറിഫോർമഷേൻ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിൻെറ ശക്തിദുർഗ്ഗമായി പരിണമിക്കുകയും, പിന്നീട് വിശ്വ ഗവേഷണഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളുടെ മുൻപന്തിയിലൊരു സ്ഥാനം കൈക്കലാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു.

പോപ്പ് നിക്കൊലസ് അഞ്ചാമനെയാണ് (1447-55) ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയുടെ സ്ഥാപകനായി കണക്കാക്കേണ്ടതു്. തൻെറ മുൻഗാമിയായ യൂജിനിയസ് നാലാമൻ ശേഖരിച്ചു വച്ച 340 വാല്യങ്ങളോടെയാണ് അദ്ദേഹം ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരശ്രമം ആരംഭിച്ചതു്. ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങം പകർത്തിയും, വിവർത്തനം ചെയ്തും, ഗ്രീസിലും ഡെൻമാർക്കിലും ജർമ്മനിയിലും സുഹൃത്തുക്കളെ അയച്ചും 1200ൽ അധികം ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങം നിക്കൊലസ് അഞ്ചാമൻ ശേഖരിച്ചു. 1450ൽ റോം സന്ദർശിച്ച തീർത്ഥാടകരുടെ സംഭാവനകം പുസ്തകങ്ങം വാങ്ങുന്നതിനാണ് അദ്ദേഹം ഉപയോഗിച്ചതു്. ''ദൈവസഭയുടെ സ്വത്ത് വ്യർത്ഥമാക്കിയ രീതി കണ്ടില്ലേ?'' എന്നു നിക്കൊലസിനെ പിൻതുടർന്ന മാർപ്പാപ്പ ചോദിച്ചുവത്രെ. അന്നത്തെ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം രണ്ടു മുറികളിൽ സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവയ്ക്കാനേയുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളു.

ബെർത്തലോമിയോ പ്ലാററിന എന്ന ചിന്തകനെ ലൈബ്രേറിയനായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചതോടുകൂടി (1475) മാർപ്പാപ്പയുടെ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം യൂറോപ്പിലെ പ്രധാന ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളിലൊന്നായി മാറി. ഗ്രന്ഥകാര, വിഷയ കാററലോഗുകം നിർമ്മിച്ച് ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയുടെ ഉപയോഗം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ അക്കാലത്തുതന്നെ പ്ലാററിന ശ്രമിച്ചിരുന്നു. വിവിധ മാനവികവിഷയങ്ങളിലായി 3,600 കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങം അന്നു ശേഖരത്തിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അക്കാലത്തെ പതിമനുസരിച്ച് ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളെല്ലാം ചങ്ങലയിട്ട് ഭദ്രമാക്കി വച്ചിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും, വായനക്കാരുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങം നിറവേററുന്നതിൽ ഗ്രന്ഥശാല ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചിരുന്നു.

ഉത്തമഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളിൽ അതീവ താല്പര്യം പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്ന ലിയോ പത്താമൻെറ ഭരണകാലത്തെ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയുടെ സുവർണ്ണദശയായി ചരിത്രകാരന്മാർ വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. തോൽകടലാസ്സിൽ (Vellum) അച്ചടിച്ചതും പട്ടുകൊണ്ടു പൊതിഞ്ഞതുമായ നിരവധി ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങം അദ്ദേഹം ശേഖരിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ 1527ലുണ്ടായ രാജകീയാക്രമണത്തിൻെറ കെടുതികളിൽനിന്ന് രക്ഷപ്പെടാൻ മാർപ്പാപ്പയുടെ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരത്തിന് കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. നിക്കൊലസ് അഞ്ചാമൻ ശേഖരിച്ച അമൂല്യകയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥസമ്പത്തിൻെറ നല്ലൊരംശം അങ്ങനെ നശിച്ചുപോയി.

പതിനാറാം നൂററാണ്ടിൻെറ ഉത്തരാർദ്ധത്തിൽ എടുത്തു പറയത്തക്ക നേട്ടങ്ങളൊന്നും വത്തിക്കാൻ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയ്ക്കുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലത്രെ. കാര്യശേഷിയുള്ള കർദിനാം ലൈബ്രേറിയന്മാരുടെ കാലത്തു് വളർച്ചയും, മററു കാലത്തു തളർച്ചയും—ഇതായിരുന്നു വികാസത്തിൻെറ മാതൃക. പതിൽക്കാലത്തു് മാർസലസ് രണ്ടാമനെന്ന നാമധേയത്തിൽ മാർപ്പാപ്പയായി അധികാരത്തിൽ വന്ന കർദ്ദിനാം സെർവിനിയായിരുന്നു ആദ്യത്തെ കർദിനാം പ്രൊട്ടക്ടർ. പോം നാലാമൻ ആദ്യം പതിനാലു വയസ്സുള്ള ഒരു ബാലനേയും പിന്നീട് പത്തൊൻപതു വയസ്സുള്ള സ്വന്തം അനന്തിരവനേയും ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാധിപന്മാരായി നിയമിച്ചുവെന്നുള്ളതു് രസകരമാണ്. അവരുടെ കാലത്തു് ഗ്രന്ഥാലയം തളർന്നില്ലെങ്കിലേ അത്ഭുതമുള്ളു.

ധാരാളം ബുദ്ധിജീവികളെ ആകർഷിച്ച വിജ്ഞാനകേന്ദ്രമെന്ന നിലയിലാണ് വത്തിക്കാൻ ഗ്രന്ഥാലയം പതിനാറാം നൂററാണ്ടിൻെറ പൂർവ്വാർദ്ധം വരെയും പ്രവർത്തിച്ചതു്. ഉദാരമായിരുന്ന ഗ്രന്ഥസംഭരണ പരിപാടി. എന്നാൽ സഭയിലുണ്ടായ പിളർപ്പ്, മാർട്ടിൻ ലൂഥറിൻെറ രംഗപ്രവേശം, പ്രോട്ടസ്റ്റൻറ് സഭയുടെ ആവിർഭാവം തുടങ്ങിയ സുഖ്യാത സംഭവ പരമ്പരകളുടെ ഫലമായി ഗ്രന്ഥാലയത്തിൻെറ വീക്ഷണത്തിലും, പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലും പരിവർത്തനങ്ങളുണ്ടായി. കൗണ്ടർ റിഫൊർമേഷൻ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിൻെറ ശക്തിദുർഗ്ഗമായി വത്തിക്കാൻ ഗ്രന്ഥശാല മാറി. 1613ൽ പോം അഞ്ചാമൻ വായനാ ഡെസ്കുകം എടുത്തു മാററുകയും, 'വായ്പ' നിർത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. പ്രവേശന സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം നിയന്ത്രിക്കപ്പെട്ടു. മൂന്നു നൂററാണ്ടുകളോളം, ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങം പരസ്യമായി പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു പകരം, ഷെൽഫുകളിൽ സൂക്ഷിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തതു്. വായനശാലാ സൗകര്യം രണ്ടാമതും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതു് 1890ൽ മാത്രമാണ്.

ഇതിനിടയിൽ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം വളർന്നു വികസിച്ചു. ബവേറിയയിലെ മാക്സ്മിലിയൻ രാജാവിൻെറ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം, ഹൈഡൽബർഗ്ഗ് പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി (3500 കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും 5000ത്തിലധികം അച്ചടിച്ച പുസ്തകങ്ങളും) സ്വീഡനിലെ ക്രിസ്റ്റീനാ രാജ്ഞിയുടെ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം തുടങ്ങിയ നിരവധി അമൂല്യശേഖരങ്ങം വത്തിക്കാനിലെത്തി.

ലിയോ പതിമൂന്നാമനാണ് (1878-1903) വത്തിക്കാനെ വിശ്വവിഖ്യാതമായ ഗവേഷണഗ്രന്ഥശാലയായി മാററിയതു്. ഇന്നത്തെ വായനശാല നിർമ്മിച്ചതും അദ്ദേഹമാണ്. ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയും ആർക്കൈവ്സും പരിശോധിക്കുവാനും ഉപയോഗിക്കാനുമുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം അദ്ദേഹം നൽകി. കർദിനാം ടിസ്സറാൻറിൻെറ ഭാഷയിൽ 'ദീർഘനിദ്രയ്ക്കു ശേഷമുള്ള ഉണർവ്വായിരുന്നു അതു് —ഏതാണ്ടൊരു പുനരുത്ഥാനം'.

അറുപതിനായിരത്തിലധികം അമൂല്യ ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും, ഏഴു ലക്ഷത്തോളം മുദ്രിതപുസ്തകങ്ങളും ഇന്ന് വത്തിക്കാനിലുണ്ട്.

ബിബ്ളോഥെക് നാഷ്യോണൽ

സാഹിത്യാഭിരുചിയും പുസ്തകതാല്പര്യവും ഫ്രാൻസിലെ രാജാക്കന്മാരുടെ കൂടപ്പിറപ്പുകളാണ്. സെൻറ് ലൂയി (1226-70) രാജാവിന്റെ കാലം മുതല്ക്കുതന്നെ ഫ്രഞ്ച് രാജകുടുംബം, ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരങ്ങൾ കെട്ടിപ്പടുക്കുന്നതിൽ താല്പര്യം കാട്ടിയിരുന്നു. അന്യനാടുകൾ ആക്രമിച്ച് കീഴടക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ, അവിടങ്ങളിലുള്ള അമൂല്യഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരങ്ങൾ ഫ്രാൻസിലേക്കു മാററുവാൻ രാജാക്കന്മാർ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു. മാത്രമല്ല, ഇന്നു സർവ്വരാഷ്ട്രങ്ങളും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള പുസ്തകനിക്ഷേപ നിയമത്തിനു ആദ്യമായി രൂപം നൽകിയതും ഒരു ഫ്രഞ്ച് രാജാവാണ്. ഫ്രാൻസിലെ രാജാക്കന്മാരുടെ പുസ്തകശേഖരണ ശീലത്തിലാണ് പാരീസിലെ നാഷനൽ ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ ഉറവിടം കണ്ടെത്തേണ്ടതു്.

ചാൾസ് അഞ്ചാമനാണ് റോയൽ ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ വിത്തു പാകിയതു്. 917 വാല്യങ്ങൾ ശേഖരിച്ച് അദ്ദേഹം ഒരു ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയ്ക്കു് രൂപം നൽകി. ചാൾസ് എട്ടാമന്റെ നേപ്പിൾസ് ആക്രമണ (1495) ഫലമായി ആയിരത്തിലധികം അമൂല്യ കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ രാജകീയ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലക്കു ലഭിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരത്തെ ഒരു ദേശീയ സ്വത്തും സ്ഥാപനവുമായി വീക്ഷിച്ച പരിപോഷിപ്പിച്ചതു് ലൂയി പന്ത്രണ്ടാമനാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ശേഖരത്തിൽ ഗ്രീക്ക്, അറബി, ഹീബ്രു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. ലൂയി രാജാവിനെ പിൻതുടർന്ന ഫ്രാൻസിസ് ഒന്നാമൻ, രാജ്യത്തു് മുദ്രണം ചെയ്യുന്ന സർവ്വ കൃതികളും റോയൽ ലൈബ്രറിയിൽ ശേഖരിച്ചു വയ്ക്കണമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കുകയും, അതിനായി ഒരു കല്പന പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. 1537 ഡിസംബർ 28ാം നു- പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ച പ്രസ്തുത രാജകീയ വിളംബര, ഫ്രാൻസിൽ മുദ്രണം ചെയ്യുന്ന സർവ്വ പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടേയും ഓരോ പ്രതി രാജകീയ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിൽ സൗജന്യമായി നിക്ഷേപിക്കുവാൻ അച്ചടിശാലകളെ ബാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥരാക്കി. മാത്രമല്ല, ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുന്ന വിദേശീയ ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ വ്യാപാരികൾ പരിശോധനയ്ക്കായി കൊട്ടാര ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കണമെന്നും വ്യവസ്ഥയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഈ രാജകല്പനയുടെ മാതൃകയിലാണ് ഇന്ത്യയടക്കമുള്ള രാഷ്ട്രങ്ങൾ ആധുനികയുഗത്തിൽ പുസ്തകനിക്ഷേപനിയമങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറാക്കിയതു്.

ഫ്രാൻസിസ് രാജാവിനെ പിൻതുടർന്നവരും ലൈബ്രറി വികസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ താല്പര്യം പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കും പണ്ഡിതന്മാർക്കും ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിൽ പ്രവേശനം ലഭിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. കൊട്ടാരത്തിൽ സ്വാധീനമുള്ളവരുടെ കുത്തകയായിരുന്നു റോയൽ ലൈബ്രറി. ഗ്രന്ഥാലയത്തിന്റെ കവാടങ്ങൾ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കായി തുറന്നു കൊടുക്കാൻ കല്പനയുണ്ടായതു് 1692ൽ മാത്രമാണ്—അതും ആഴ്ചയിൽ രണ്ടു തവണ.

ഫ്രഞ്ച് വിപ്ലവത്തെത്തുടർന്ന് ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയുടെ മുഖഛായ മാറിയതിൽ ആശ്ചര്യപ്പെടാനില്ല. വിപ്ലവകാലത്തു് ലൈബ്രേറിയനെ അറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്യുകയും പിന്നീടു തൂക്കിലിടുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഗ്രന്ഥാലയം ചുട്ടെരിച്ചു കളയണമെന്നു ഒരു 'ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി' നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. രാജാക്കന്മാരും മററു പ്രഭുക്കളും രചിച്ച അവതാരികകളും അവർക്കു നൽകിയ സമർപ്പണങ്ങളും മററുമുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ നശിപ്പിക്കുവാനും 'അടിമത്തത്തിന്റെ ചിഹ്ന'ങ്ങളായ പാരീസിലെ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ തുത്തുവാരുവാനും വിപ്ലവകാരികൾ കല്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. വിപ്ലവം ഫ്രാൻസിലെ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളുടെ അടിത്തറ ഇളക്കി. ബാസ്റ്റീൽ പതനത്തെത്തുടർന്നുള്ള രണ്ടു ദശകങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ പ്രഭുകുടുംബങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ക്രിസ്തീയമഠങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുമായി 15 ലക്ഷത്തോളം ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ പിടിച്ചെടുക്കപ്പെട്ടു. ഇതിൽനിന്നാണ് ബിബ്ല്യോഥെക് നാഷ്യോനാലിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു ലക്ഷം അച്ചടിച്ച പുസ്തകങ്ങളും, എഴുപതിനായിരത്തിലധികം കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തതു്. അങ്ങിനെ രാജകീയഗ്രന്ഥശാല, ഫ്രാൻസിന്റെ ദേശീയഗ്രന്ഥശാലയായി മാറി.

ഇന്നു് യൂറോപ്പിലെ വൻകിട ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളിലൊന്നായി പാരീസിലെ ഗ്രന്ഥശാല പരിലസിക്കുന്നു. ഫ്രാൻസിലെ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാപ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെ നയിക്കുന്നതും, ഫ്രഞ്ച് ദേശീയ ഗ്രന്ഥസൂചി തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതും ദേശീയ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയാണ്.

ബോഡ്ലീയൻ ലൈബ്രറി

യൂറോപ്പിലെ പ്രാചീന ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളിലൊന്നാണ് ഓക്സ്ഫോർഡ് സർവ്വകലാശാലയിലെ ബോഡ്ലീയൻ ഗ്രന്ഥശാല. പതിമൂന്നാം നൂററാണ്ടു മുതൽക്കുതന്നെ ഒരു ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം ഓക്സ്ഫോർഡിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും, സർവ്വകലാശാലയ്ക്കു സംഘടിതമായൊരു ഗ്രന്ഥശാല സംജാതമാവുന്നതു് 1598ൽ മാത്രമാണ്. തോമസ് ബോഡ്ലി എന്ന മാന്യനാണു ഓക്സ്ഫോർഡിനു ഒരു കേന്ദ്രഗ്രന്ഥശാല സമ്മാനിക്കാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ച് രംഗത്തിറങ്ങിയതു്. 1602 നവമ്പർ 8-ാം നു- ഗ്രന്ഥശാല ഔപചാരികമായി ഉൽഘാടനം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടു. പ്രോട്ടസ്റ്റൻറ് പഠനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള കേന്ദ്രമെന്ന നിലയിൽ ഗ്രന്ഥശാല പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നായിരുന്നു ബോഡ്ലിയുടേയും, ഒന്നാമത്തെ ലൈബ്രേറിയനായി നിയമിതനായ തോമസ് ജെയിംസ് എന്ന പണ്ഡിതന്റേയും അഭിമതം.

ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മ്യൂസിയം സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനു നൂററമ്പതു വർഷങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പുതന്നെ, ബ്രിട്ടനിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടേയും ഒരു പ്രതിവീതം സൗജന്യമായി ശേഖരിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ തോമസ് ബോഡ്ലി ചെയ്തു വയ്ക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. തൽഫലമായി 17ഉം 18ഉം നൂററാണ്ടുകളിലെ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ സമ്പന്നമായൊരു ശേഖരം ഓക്സ്ഫോർഡിൽ ഉടലെടുത്തു. നിരവധി സ്വകാര്യ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരങ്ങളും ബോഡ്ലിയുടേയും പിന്നീടുള്ള ലൈബ്രേറിയന്മാരുടേയും പ്രയത്നഫലമായി ഓക്സ്ഫോർഡിലെത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇവയിൽ അതിപ്രധാനമായൊരു പുസ്തകസമൂഹമാണ്. 1821ൽ ഓക്സ്ഫോർഡിനു ലഭിച്ച മെലോൻ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം. ഷേക്സ്പിയർ സാഹിത്യസംബന്ധിയായ ഏററവും മികച്ച ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരമാണിതെന്നുള്ളതു് പ്രത്യേകം പ്രസ്താവ്യമാണ്. റാഡ്ക്ലിഫ് ലൈബ്രറി, ഇന്ത്യൻ ഇൻസ്റ്റിററ്യൂട്ട് ലൈബ്രറി, റോഡ്സ് ഹൗസ് ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം എന്നീ പ്രത്യേക ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ 1920ൽ ഓക്സ്ഫോർഡിൽ ലഭിച്ചതോടെ, അതിസമ്പന്നമായൊരു ലൈബ്രറി സർവ്വകലാശാലയ്ക്കു ലഭിച്ചു. 1939ൽ സ്വന്തമായൊരു കെട്ടിടവും ലഭിച്ചു.

ഇരുപതു ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം പുസ്തകങ്ങളുള്ള സർവ്വകലാശാലാ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിലെ വിവിധ വായനശാലകളിലായി 1700 പേർക്കു് ഒരേ സമയത്തു ഗവേഷണ-പഠനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുവാനുള്ള സൗകര്യങ്ങളുണ്ടു്.

ലൈബ്രറി ഓഫ് കോൺഗ്രസ്സ്

ക്രി.ഡി. 1800ൽ സ്ഥാപിക്കപ്പെട്ട ലൈബ്രറി ഓഫ് കോൺഗ്രസ്സ്, പേരു് സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഐക്യനാടുകളുടെ ഫെഡറൽ നിയമസഭയുടെ ഗവേഷണ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയാണ്. ഫെഡറൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ആസ്ഥാനം വാഷിംഗ്ടൺ ഡി. സി. യിൽ സ്ഥാപിച്ചപ്പോൾ, കോൺഗ്രസ്സിനു പ്രത്യേകമൊരു ഗ്രന്ഥശാല വേണ്ടതാണെന്നു നിയമസഭാംഗങ്ങൾക്കു ബോധ്യപ്പെടുകയും, അതിനായി പ്രത്യേക നിയമം നിർമ്മിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. പ്രാരംഭ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി 5000 ഡോളർ ചെലവു ചെയ്യാനാണ് കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് അധികാരപ്പെടുത്തിയതു്. 740 പുസ്തകങ്ങളും, ഏതാനും ഭൂപടങ്ങളുമായി 1801ൽ പ്രവർത്തനമാരംഭിച്ച കൊച്ചു ഗ്രന്ഥാലയമാണ് നൂററമ്പതു കൊല്ലങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു് ലോകത്തിലെ ഏററവും വലിയ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയായി മാറിയതു്.

1314ൽ പുസ്തകസംഖ്യ മൂവായിരമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവെങ്കിലും, ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് സൈന്യം കാപ്പിറേറാൾ കെട്ടിടം നശിപ്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരവും ഛിന്നഭിന്നമായി. 1815ൽ വാങ്ങിയ തോമസ് ജെഫേർസൻെറ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖര (6000 വാല്യങ്ങൾ)മാണ് ഇന്നത്തെ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരത്തിൻെറ അടിത്തറ. 1840ൽ വിദേശ ഗവണ്മെൻറുകളുമായി ഉണ്ടാക്കിയ കരാറുകളനുസരിച്ച് വിദേശീയ സർക്കാർ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ നിക്ഷേപകേന്ദ്രമായി ലൈബ്രറിയെ പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചു. 1846ൽ പകർപ്പവകാശ നിയമമുണ്ടായപ്പോൾ, അമേരിക്കയിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതികൾ സൗജന്യമായി ശേഖരിക്കുവാൻ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് അധികാരപ്പെടുത്തി. 1897ൽ കാപ്പിററൽ കെട്ടിടത്തിൽ നിന്നു് സ്വന്തം ആസ്ഥാനത്തേക്കു നീങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ, കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് ലൈബ്രറിയിൽ അച്ചടിച്ച 10 ലക്ഷം പുസ്തകങ്ങളുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. 1897 ലാണ് അന്ധർക്കുള്ള പ്രത്യേകസേവനമാരംഭിച്ചതു്. 1898ൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള സായാഹ്നസേവനവുമാരംഭിച്ചു. കോൺഗ്രസ്സംഗങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള റഫറൻസ് സേവനം തുടങ്ങിയതു് 1914ൽ ആണ്.

ലൈബ്രറി ഓഫ് കോൺഗ്രസ്സിലെ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരത്തിനു് ചില പ്രത്യേകതകളുണ്ടു്. ഇരുപത്തിമൂന്നു പ്രസിഡൻറുമാരുടെ കത്തിടപാടുകളും സ്വകാര്യ കടലാസ്സുകളും ലൈബ്രറി ഓഫ് കോൺഗ്രസ്സിൻെറ അമൂല്യശേഖരങ്ങളിൽപെടുന്നു. തോമസ് ജേഫേഴ്സൻ എഴുതിയുണ്ടാക്കിയ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യപ്രഖ്യാപനത്തിൻെറ കരടും ഏബ്രഹാം ലിങ്കൻെറ വിഖ്യാതമായ ഗെററിസ്ബർഗ് പ്രസംഗത്തിൻെറ കയ്യെഴുത്തുപ്രതിയും ഈ ശേഖരത്തിലെ വിലമതിക്കാനാവാത്ത രേഖകളാണ്. ഏററവുമധികം ചൈനീസ്, ജാപ്പനീസ് കൃതികളുള്ള ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരവും ലൈബ്രറി ഓഫ് കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് തന്നെയാണ്. സോവിയററ് യൂണിയനു വെളിയിലുള്ള റഷ്യൻ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ശേഖരങ്ങളിൽ വച്ച് ഏററവും മികച്ചതും കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് ലൈബ്രറിയുടേതാണ്. പബ്ളിക് നിയമം 480ലെ വ്യവസ്ഥകളും, ധനാഗമമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളുമുപയോഗിച്ച് ലോകമൊട്ടുക്കുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വാഷിംഗ്ടൺ ശേഖരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്.

കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് ലൈബ്രറി, ഐക്യനാടുകളുടെ ദേശീയ ഗ്രന്ഥാലയമായി വികസിച്ചുവെന്നു് പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. പകർപ്പവകാശനിയമം നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്ന ഫെഡറൽ ഏജൻസിയും കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് ലൈബ്രറി തന്നെയാണ്. ദേശീയ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയെന്ന നിലയ്ക്കും അമേരിക്കയിലുടനീളമുള്ള ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾക്ക് സാങ്കേതിക കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശം നൽകുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് ലൈബ്രറി പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ജാഗ്രതയും താല്പര്യവും അഭിനന്ദനീയമാണ്. ഐക്യനാടുകളിലും കാനഡയിലുമുള്ള പ്രധാന ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളിലെ പുസ്തകസ്റ്റോക്കിൻെറ വിവരങ്ങൾ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന നാഷനൽ യൂണിയൻ കാററലോഗിൻെറ ക്രോഡീകരണവും പ്രസാധനവും വളരെ വിജയകരമായി ലൈബ്രറി നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് ലൈബ്രറി തയ്യാറാക്കി വിൽക്കുന്ന അച്ചടിച്ച കാററലോഗ് കാർഡുകൾ ലോകമൊട്ടുക്കുള്ള ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നു. വിശ്വപ്രചാരമുള്ള ഡ്യൂയി ദശാംശ വർഗ്ഗീകരണ പദ്ധതി കാലാകാലം പരിഷ്കരിച്ച് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്നതിലും കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് ലൈബ്രറി സഹകരിച്ചു വരുന്നു.

1970ൽ ലൈബ്രേറിയൻ കോൺഗ്രസ്സിനു് സമർപ്പിച്ച റിപ്പോർട്ടനുസരിച്ച്, കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് ലൈബ്രറിയിൽ പുസ്തകങ്ങളും, കയ്യെഴുത്തു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും, പ്രിൻറുകളും, മററു മുദ്രിത സാമഗ്രികളുമടക്കം 61,317,142 ഇനങ്ങളുണ്ടു്. പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ സംഖ്യമാത്രം ഒരു കോടി 25 ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം വരും. ബൈൻഡ്ചെയ്ത പത്രമാസികകളുടെ എണ്ണം 125,466വും.

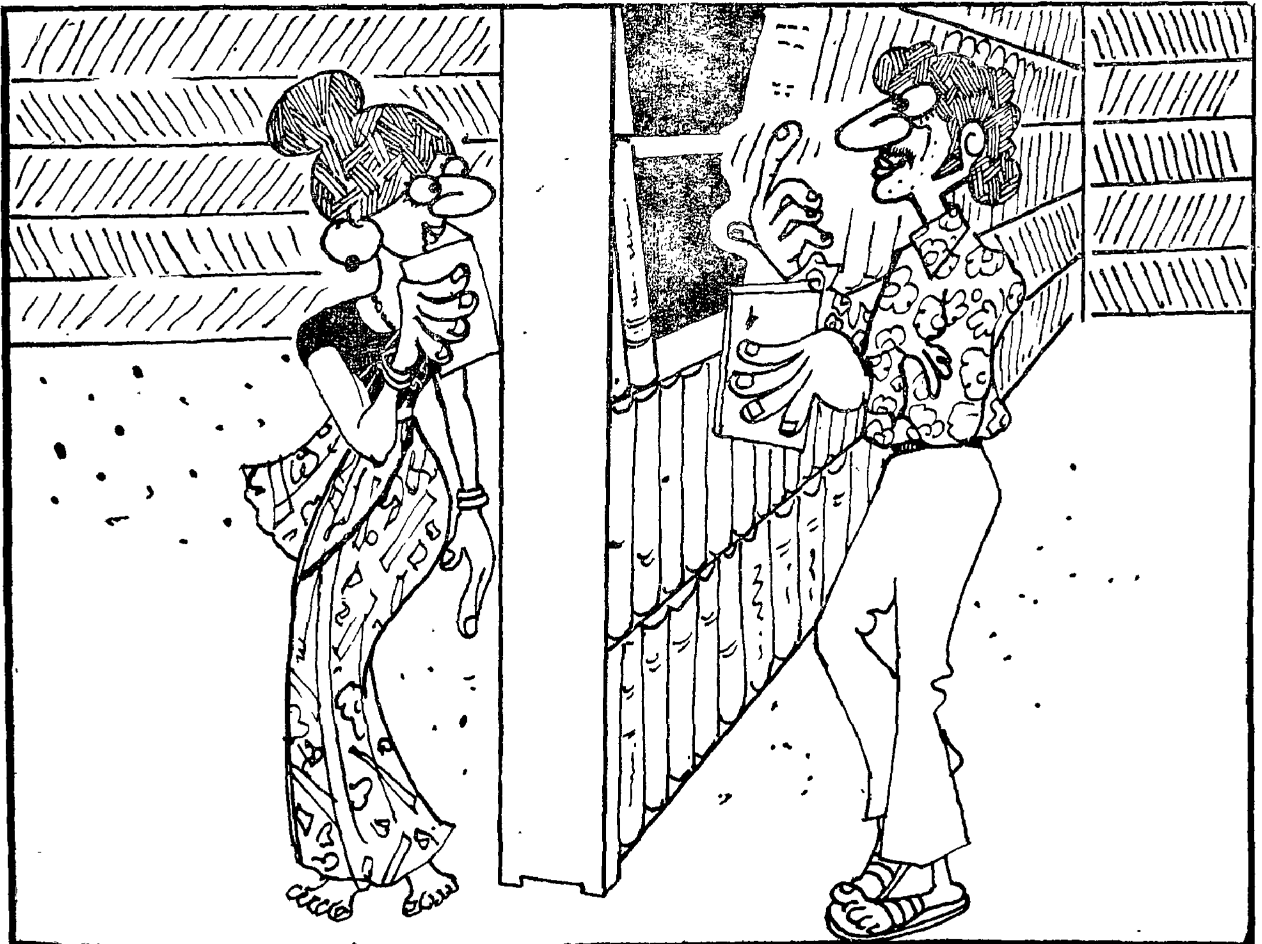
നാഷനൽ ലൈബ്രറി, കൽക്കത്ത

ഭാരതത്തിൻെറ ദേശീയ ഗ്രന്ഥാലയം സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് വളർത്തി, പരിരക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ള ഭാഗ്യം കല്ക്കത്താനഗരിയ്ക്കാണ് ലഭിച്ചതു്. 1836 മാർച്ച് 21-ാം തീയതി, 'ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്മാൻ' പത്രത്തിൻെറ പത്രാധിപരായ ജെ. എച്ച് സ്റ്റോക്യുലർ മുൻകയ്യെടുത്തു സ്ഥാപിച്ച പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയാണ് ഇന്നത്തെ നാഷനൽ ലൈബ്രറി. ഇരുപത്തിനാലു പർഗ്ഗന ജില്ലയുടെ സിവിൽ സർജനായ ഡോ. സ്ട്രോങ്ങിൻെറ വസതിയുടെതാഴത്തെ നിലയിൽ 6,500 പുസ്തകങ്ങളും മൂവായിരത്തോളം രൂപയുമായാണ് പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി പ്രവർത്തനമാരംഭിച്ചതു്. മുന്നൂറു രൂപ സംഭാവന ചെയ്തു് ഏതു മാന്യനും ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ പ്രൊപ്രൈററർ ആവാമെന്ന നിബന്ധനയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ആദ്യത്തെ "ഉടമസ്ഥ"നായിച്ചേർന്നതു്, രവീന്ദ്രനാഥ് ടാക്കറിൻെറ പിതാമഹനായ ദ്വാരക്നാഥ് ടാക്കർ എന്ന മഹാശയനായിരുന്നു. അന്നത്തെ മററു പൗരമുഖ്യന്മാരുടെ സഹായവും ലൈബ്രറിക്കു് ലഭിച്ചിരുന്നു. 1857 വരെ ഒരു വിധം ഭംഗിയായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവെങ്കിലും, ഇന്ത്യയുടെ ആദ്യത്തെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യസമരം ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയുടെ ഭാവിയെ സാരമായി ബാധിച്ചു. കല്ക്കത്താ നഗരസമിതി ലൈബ്ററിയുടെ ഭരണമേറെറടുത്തുവെങ്കിലും, പ്രവത്തനം ക്രമേണ മന്ദീഭവിച്ചു. പക്ഷെ ലൈബ്ററി യാദൃശ്ചികമായി സന്ദർശിച്ച ഗവർണ്ണർ ജനറൽ പ്രഭു ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ ദുരവസ്ഥ മനസ്സിലാക്കി അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ നേരിട്ടുള്ള നിയന്ത്രണത്തിലാക്കാനുള്ള ശ്രമം ആരംഭിച്ചു. അങ്ങിനെയാണ് ഇംപീരിയൽ ലൈബ്രറി ഉടലെടുത്തതു്. പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയും അന്നു നിലവിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഏതാനും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറൽ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളും സംയോജിപ്പിച്ച്, 1903 ജാനുവരി മുപ്പതാം തീയതി ഇംപീരിയൽ

ലൈബ്രറി ഉൽഘാടനം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടു. "ഭാരതത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് രചിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഏതു പുസ്തകവും ഭാവിചരിത്രകാരന്മാർക്കു ഈ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിൽവച്ചുതന്നെ പരിശോധിക്കാനും പഠിക്കാനും സാധിക്കണം" എന്നു പ്രഭു തന്റെ ഉൽഘാടന പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. നാഷനൽ ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ പുസ്തക ശേഖരണനയത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനശില സ്ഥാപിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹം.

സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യപ്രാപ്തിയോടെ ഇംപീരിയൽ ലൈബ്രറി നാഷനൽ ലൈബ്രറിയായി മാറി. ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനപരിധിയും വിസ്തൃതമായി. സർവ്വ ഭാരതീയ ഭാഷകളിലുമുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങളും മറ്റു പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളും ശേഖരിച്ചുവക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള തീരുമാനവുമുണ്ടായി. ഈ പരിപാടി വിജയകരമായി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട നിയമനിർമ്മാണത്തിനു കാലതാമസമുണ്ടായില്ല. 1954 മേയ് 20-ാം തീയതി നടപ്പിൽ വന്ന ഡെലിവറി ഓഫ് ബുക്സ് ആക്ടിനെയാണ് ഇവിടെ സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇന്ത്യയിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്ന സർവ്വ പുസ്തകങ്ങളും, മറ്റു മുദ്രിത സാമഗ്രികളും സൗജന്യമായി ശേഖരിക്കുവാൻ ഈ നിയമംമൂലം നാഷനൽ ലൈബ്രറിക്കു സാധിക്കുന്നു. പുസ്തകനിക്ഷേപ നിയമം 'ഇന്ത്യൻ നാഷനൽ ബിബ്ലിയോഗ്രാഫി'യുടെ ക്രോഡീകരണത്തിനു വഴി തെളിയിച്ചുവെന്നുള്ളതും സ്മരണീയമാണ്. ഭാരതീയ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ വിഷയാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലുള്ള മാസിക കാററലോഗാണ് ഇന്ത്യൻ നാഷനൽ ബിബ്ലിയോഗ്രാഫി. ആദ്യത്തെ നാഷനൽ ലൈബ്രേറിയനായി രംഗപ്രവേശം ചെയ്ത ശ്രീ. ബി. എസ്. കേശവന്റെ പരിലാളനയിൽ ഗ്രന്ഥശാല അസൂയാവഹമായ പുരോഗതി നേടി. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പരിശ്രമഫലമായാണ്, ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയ്ക്കു ബെൽവിഡീയർ കൊട്ടാരം ലഭിച്ചതെന്നുള്ളതു് സ്മരണീയമാണ്. ബെൽവിഡീയർ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു നിറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ, ഒമ്പതു നിലകളുള്ള മറ്റൊരു കെട്ടിടം പണിതു. ഓരോ നിലയും ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തി അമ്പത്തിനാലായിരം വാല്യങ്ങൾവീതം സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവയ്ക്കാനുള്ള സൗകര്യത്തോടെ നിർമ്മിച്ച ഈ കെട്ടിടത്തിലും ഇന്നു സ്ഥലദൗർല്ലഭ്യം അനുഭവപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടു്. പതിനാലു ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ഇന്നു നാഷനൽ ലൈബ്രറി ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരങ്ങളിലുണ്ടു്. മലയാള പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ സംഖ്യ 25,000ത്തിലധികം വരുമെങ്കിലും, പഴയ മലയാള പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ലൈബ്രറി ദരിദ്രയാണ്.

പുസ്തകപ്രേമം !



Cartoonist: Adaikalam.

BOOK LOVE !

Repository of South Asian culture

India Office Library

SERVES THE WORLD'S INDOLOGISTS

Kottoor Sreedharan Nair

The India Office Library and the India Office Records now exist together in one building at 197 Blackfriars Road, London, in the United Kingdom. These are two separate organisations under the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Library and the Record Office are, nevertheless, intimately associated both historically and in function.

The India Office Records, with a history going back to 1771, holds the extant archives of the East India Company and the Board of Control and their legal successor, the India Office. The India Office Library was created in the first instance by the East India Company and continued to exist later as the library of the India Office after the Company's dissolution in 1858, following the first War of Indian Independence, otherwise called the Indian Mutiny.

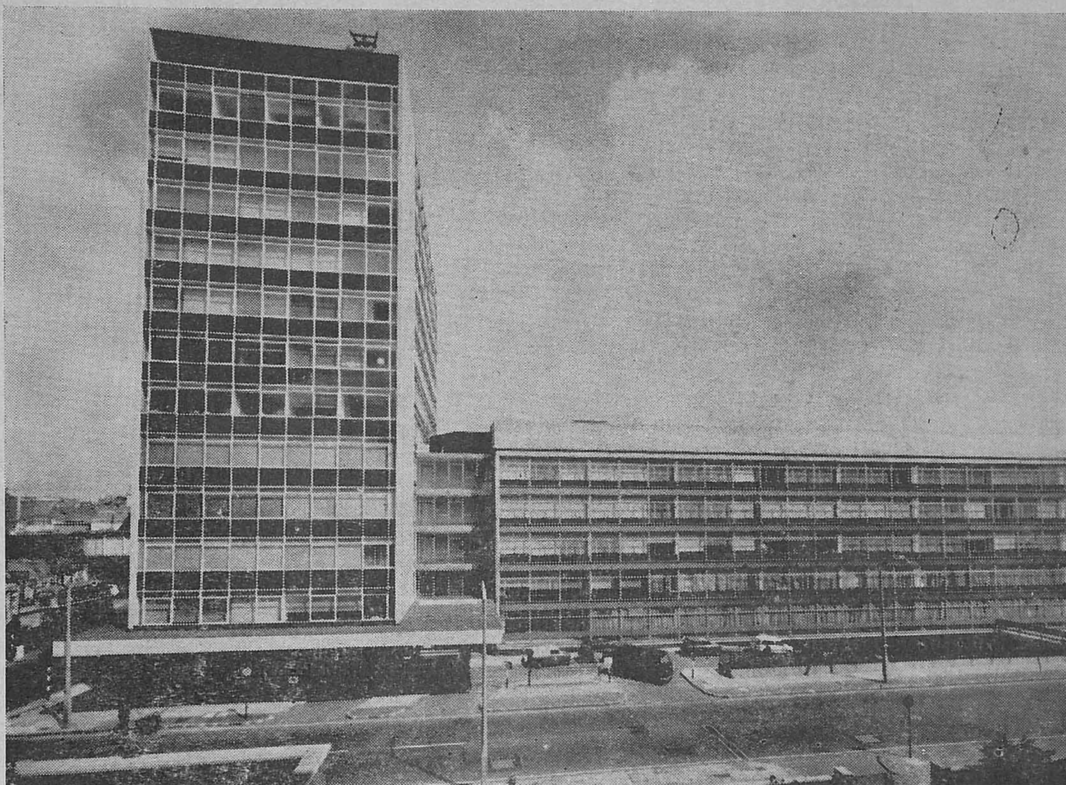
When in 1947, after the transfer of power, the India Office itself became extinct, both "Library" and "Records" were transferred to the Commonwealth Relations Office. The two organisations have always been housed in the same building and today operate under a unified direction, the India Office Librarian being also, since 1954, Keeper of the Records. Further the archive and other resources of the India Office Records could only be consulted in the joint Reading Room which serves both "Library" and "Records". In effect, therefore, the resources of the India Office Library and the India Office Records, namely printed books, manuscripts, archives, maps, drawings and photographs constitute a single corpus of material for study and research.

Repository of Oriental Books

The Directors of the "Honourable East India Company" founded a Library in 1801 to establish a public repository for the safe custody of oriental books and manuscripts placed in its care by its servants in India and by others. Not content to remain mere passive recipients of such valuable material, the Company's Directors adopted very early a systematic policy of strengthening not only the "Library" but also the Museum, illustrating Indian art, antiquities, social life and natural history which was growing up alongside the "Library".

In 1858, on the transfer of the East India Company's powers and material possessions to the British Crown, the "Library" with its associated Museum (whose properties were later, mainly in 1879, dispersed among other institutions in London), came under the administration of the newly created Department of the Secretary of State for India, the India Office.

With the end of the India Office in August 1947,



This is the fourth home of the India Office Library and India Office Records, started by the East India Company. This building on Blackfriars Road, London was opened in 1967.

consequent on the Indian Independence Act of that year, the India Office Library and its sister organisation, the India Office Records, came under the control of the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, to whom the responsibility for the conduct of relations with India and Pakistan was transferred.

Official Reference

The India Office Library, throughout its history, has fulfilled two distinct purposes. It has served as a library of official reference, initially for the East India Company's Court of Directors, after 1858 for the Secretary of State for India in Council, and from September 1947 for the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations. Concurrently, it has also functioned as a learned library for the use of orientalists.

The East India Company's primary objective in founding the library was, as already noted, the safe preservation of oriental materials in its charge. These accumulations were, from the very outset, made accessible to the scholars and were constantly augmented by a considered policy of expansion as well as by the munificence of many private benefactors.

After Queen Victoria was made Empress of India in 1858, successive Secretaries of State for India wisely continued the East India Company's enlightened direction of the "Library". The printed books which formed the core of this growing repository of South Asian culture were from the outset inevitably used for reference in the official conduct of business. It was thus partly by design, and partly by historical accident, the East India Company's library became both a specialist learned library serving the needs of Indologists all over the world, and the official reference library of a Government department.

Four Different Homes

The "Library" has had four different homes to date, all of them in London. Its life was begun in East India House, Leadenhall Street, the East India Company's Headquarters, and remained there till 1860, when it was moved to its temporary quarters in Cannon Row which it occupied while the India Office was being built in Whitehall. It moved to the India Office in 1867 and remained there for a century. In 1967 both the India Office library and India Office Records were transferred to new premises which had been adapted and equipped for them at 197, Blackfriars Road, London, S. E. 1

Main Resources

The resources of the India Office Library ahd India Office Records fall into four main categories: printed books, manuscripts, drawings and prints, and photographs. Additionally there are a few miscellaneous minor properties such as coins, lantern slides and textile samples. A division between "European" and "Oriental" is fundamental in the printed books and in the manuscripts, the European printed books and manuscripts being those in the languages of Europe, the Oriental, naturally, in Oriental languages. The drawings, likewise, fall into two groups, those by European artists and those by Oriental. The printed books in European languages form a unified collection, the European Printed Books, with its own catalogue. The manuscripts in European languages similarly form a single group, the European Manuscripts. also separately catalogued. On the other hand, both books and manuscripts in Oriental languages are divided into separate language collections, each with its own catalogue: for example, the Sanskrit books, the Tibetan manuscripts. The sections shown below which describe these collections are arranged according to the following classification of languages, a classification based purely on administrative convenience and on the extent of the Library's resources in each language rather than on consistent linguistic or geographical principles:

Classical

Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit and Prakrit, Pali, Tibetan, Khotanese, Kuchean, Avestan and Pahlevi, Chinese.

Modern Indian and Pakistani:

Indo-Aryan (Assamese, Bengali etc.) Iranian (Baluchi, Pashto etc, Dravidian (Brahui, Kanarese etc), Munda (Kharia, Kurku etc), Mon-Khmer (Khasi, Mon etc), Burmese Other Tibeto-Burman (Abor-Miri, Bhotia etc), Other Oriental languages (Ahom, Aramic etc)

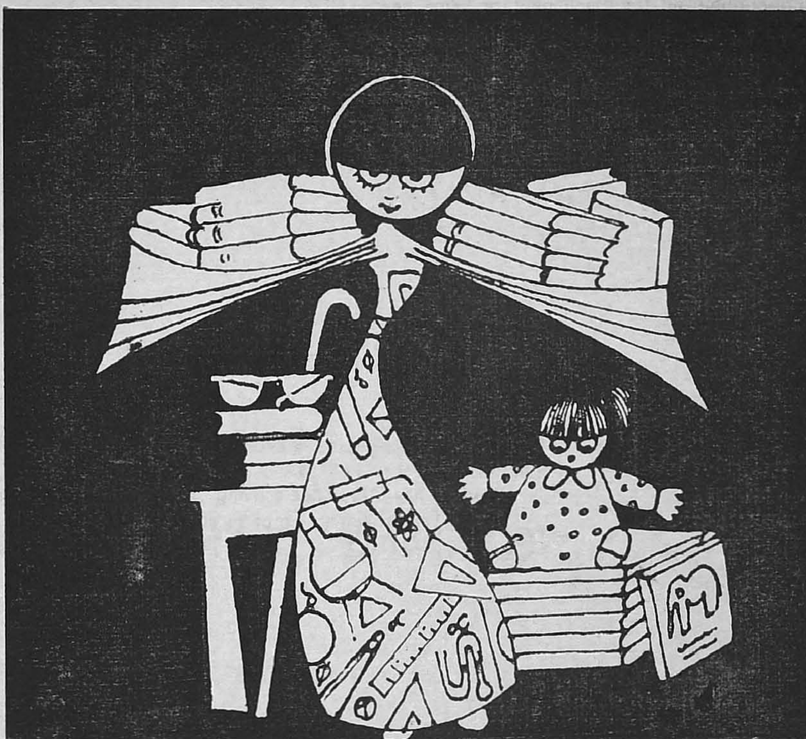
Materials in the India Office Records are derived from four different administrations: the East India Company 1600 to 1858; the Board of Control 1784 to 1858; the India Office, 1858 to 1947 and the Burma Office, 1937 to 1947. These fall into four broad categories:

(a) Oriental Records, that is, archives (more than 170,000 volumes and unbound files);

(b) Official publications of both the United Kingdom and pre-1947 India (about 100,000 volumes);

(c) Maps, printed manuscripts (about 20,000);

(d) A collection of statues and busts, oil paintings. water-colours and other drawings, prints, photographs, and certain miscellaneous "relics" of the East India Company and the India Office-such as, medals, small arms, and other weapons, and ship model.



PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY OF LIBRARIES

ANALYSIS FROM A TO Z

From my point of view, a book is a literary prescription put for the benefit of some one who needs it. It may be simple or compounded of many ingredients. The ideas may unite in true chemical union or they may be insoluble in one another and form an emulsion.

S. M. Crothers: "A Literary Clinic"

It is absurd to estimate the services of a librarian to his community by the number of books he issues or the per capita cost of such issues. The true measure of his service is the extent to which the great world of books has been made a living, appealing, inspiring reality through that service. The librarian who is not something of an authority on books is, whatever his technical training, as much out of place as the doctor who knows nothing of the value of his medicines.

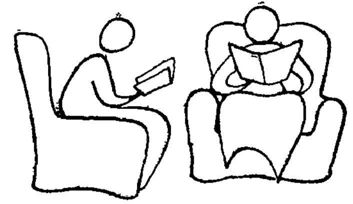
New York Libraries

The public library is an integral part of community activity; an organ in the social body. It functions in response to or in anticipation of the whole range of community needs. Presumptively, these needs are the needs of all the people of the community, not merely of those who are library users; but, in fact, they are needs made evident by public demand; and demand upon the library comes only from those who in some measure desire to make use of it. Demand can often be elicited; it can always be stimulated and influenced; but if it does not exist, material provided to supply it will not be used.

Helen E. Haines, Living with Books

Books! Books! Books! How wonderful, fascinating and revealing! ... Outside, overhead, might be a blue or grey sky, sunshine or rain or snow; it made little difference. For I was reading and awakening to a consciousness of many things, the mere knowledge of which appeared to coincide with power. The skies in my books were blue. One could do things with sufficient power.

Theodore Dreiser



Random thoughts on the problems of

Acquiring Books

COMMUNITY'S INTERESTS
SHOULD GUIDE SELECTION

M. M. Job

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Acquisition work in a library is the process by which additions are made to the library's collection. As such it comprises selection of books, ordering of materials, gift, exchange and other related work.

The important methods by which books are obtained in libraries are: (1) purchase, (ii) gift, (iii) exchange, and (iv) becoming deposit centres or institutional members. But in the case of periodicals, six methods can be adopted. They are: (i) local purchase, (ii) direct subscription, (iii) taking membership of publishing societies and institutions, (iv) exchange with other institutions and libraries, (v) donations from the publishing societies and (vi) appointing standing vendors. One of these or a combination of two or more or all of them is used in libraries for acquiring periodical publications. This article deals with some of the problems confronted by Indian libraries in the selection and purchase of reading material.

Since Public Library patrons belonging to different walks of life form a cross-section of the community it serves, book selection must be in tune with their interests. However, there is no mechanism available now by which their interests can easily be studied. Community surveys, census reports and direct contact with the leaders belonging to different groups will help librarians in assessing the library requirements of the community to a great extent. Periodical community studies are required to assess their needs.

Book Trade in India

Ordering books and periodicals for libraries in India is more difficult than in developed countries. Our public libraries largely select books written in regional languages. But book trade in regional language publications is not properly developed. Most of the regional language publications at present belong to the class literature, particularly so in the case of Malayalam publications. According to Jayasinghe *(Sankaranarayanan (N), Ed: Book Distribution and Promotion Problems in South Asia. Unesco and Higginbothams p. 6)* Indian publishers are of three types: " (a) those who publish books largely in the English language, (b) those who publish books in regional languages only and (c) those who publish transalations in regional languages of books originally published in English and other languages. It is unfortunately true that excepting for a very few publishers, the others have not maintained a high standard either in book production or in organised distribution. The few who are maintaining standa-

rds and are striving to improve them continually come under class (a) referred above."

Another problem in the acquisition of books is the tremendous increase in the prices of books, specially in the case of foreign publications, which affects the purchasing capacity of the libraries. Unfortunately there has been no comparable increase in the budget provision for books and periodicals.

A third problem is that the quality of paper and binding of Indian books is generally poor. This is particularly true of Malayalam publications. Most of them are paperbacks. They are to be sent for binding immediately after their purchase, because if they are put to circulation before binding, there is every chance of their being worn out within a short period. However, with better quality paper and binding, prices would go up. Publication of two different editions of each book, one cheap and the other library could be thought of.

Another difficulty in respect of books is in obtaining timely information about their publication. At present there are only a few important consolidated sources available in the market giving information about Indian publications apart from the Publishers' and Booksellers' Catalogues. Indian National Bibliography is one among them ; but its coverage is very poor. Bibliographies covering regional language publications are scarce. The attempt made by the Kerala Sahitya Academy in preparing a bibliography of Malayalam Publications brought up to 1972 is example of work done in this direction.

A major problem facing public libraries is the dearth of subject books in the market. Foreign books may be available, but many of them are not oriented to the specific needs of Indian public libraries, especially in the rural areas. Books that provide recreation like travel books, biographies, philosophical writings and fiction, those of inspirational type like religious books, poetry, good drama and mystical writings, social science books dealing with subjects like planning, trade, management, history, rural and urban sociology and population study, those that cater to the interests of the local professionals, namely books on tailoring, dyeing, dry cleaning, fishing, printing, binding, papermaking,shoemaking, drawing, farming, cycle and car repairing and books dealing with household matters and care of animals and a large variety of other fields like sanitary engineering, manufacture of electrical goods, batteries and agricultural implements are of great interest to public library clientele. But it is seldom that books written by Indian authors are available on these subjects.

The keen competition prevailing among booksellers and the unethical practices followed by some of them aggravate the other problems facing the acquisition of books. Booksellers, especially the new entrants to the field, compete with others by offering very low rates with a view to capturing business. However, they supply to libraries only those books on which they get an appreciable trade discount and fail to supply the books on which their trade discount is low.

It is the difference in rates offered by booksellers for books that necessitate the quotation system. If an arrangement like the net-book agreement prevailing in Britain under which books can be purchased by a library from any bookseller at a uniform rate agreed to by all parties, had been in vogue in India, the libraries would have had the freedom to buy the required books from any readily available source. In this arrangement the competition between booksellers would be in respect of service and not rates and the result would be a much more expeditious procurement of the books required.

Most of the books are now selected with the help of the available source materials, which are of the indexing or reviewing type. Indexing sources fail to give any information in regard to the quality of books. For this purpose reviewing periodicals are important sources, but we do not have many standard reviewing periodicals. Also their coverage is very poor. A review may sometimes take months to appear. In a few cases, books may go out of print by the time their reviews appear. Some publications may appear in newspapers. They are only very few in number as compared to the number of books published. Blurbs given by publishers cannot be relied upon.

In the acquisition of periodical publications, vigilance and promptness are essential factors. If the non-receipt of a particular issue of a periodical publication is not brought to the notice of the publisher in time, there is every chance of the library not getting it at all.

Another difficulty experienced regarding periodical publications is the time-lag in their publication. This happens more in the case of subject periodicals than of general periodicals.

It generaly takes about five to six months to get books from abroa since such books are usually despatched by surface mail. Therefore libraries get only six to seven months for placing orders for books. This reduces the chance of spreading the process of selectin and orderiong of books throughout the year. Therefore for such books, orders have to be stopped about five months before the close of the year.

It also sometimes happens that information about the allotment of funds for books and periodicals reaches the library very late. This again creates difficulties for the judicious selection and ordering of books.

While it is advisable to have a separate section for children in every public library, it is difficult to get good children's books except in English. Early steps are necessary to encourage writers to produce more good books in regional languages.

Besides conventional books and periodicals, there are many other types of material like documentary films, gramaphone records, sound books, lantern slides, photographs, maps and micro-films, which are much more effective than conventional reading materials in educating the public. Although they are costlier and are not readily or easily available special efforts should be made by public libraries for building up a useful collection of such materials to supplement their collection of books and periodicals.

Establishing contact between the right book and right reader at the right time

Technical Processing

WITHOUT CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGING, A LIBRARY WILL BE A CHAOTIC COLLECTION OF BOOKS

K. A. Isaac

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The function of a library is to bring human beings and recorded knowledge into as fruitful a relationship as possible. For this the library has to build up a book stock oriented to the needs of its clientele and organise it in such a manner as to make it available to people with the utmost expedition. This is made possible by what is called the technical processing of books which involves the twin operations of book classification and cataloging. Every book that comes into a library has to be subjected to these processes before it is placed on the shelf for use.

Books are arranged on the shelves in the stack room by their specific subjects. This means not only that all books dealing with a particular subject should come together, but also that books dealing with related subjects should come in close proximity. This arrangement would be helpful in revealing to a reader in a convenient and helpful order, the entire holdings of a library on the subjects that are likely to be of interest to him at a given time. This should be the pattern of arrangement of books with whatever region of the stack room one may start with as the place where books of immediate interest to him at that moment are placed.

To secure such an arrangement of books is by no means an easy task today, if we take into account the modern ramifications of subjects and the steadily increasing number of books coming out on subjects of very narrow extension and very great depth. It is classification that is the means for securing this arrangement. Classification will be able to do this effectively only if it is capable of identifying the specific subject contained in each book as a separate entity and treating it accordingly.

This implies that each specific subject, however small a fraction of knowledge it may be, should be given a number that fully represents it or, in other words, is an exact translation of it No two specific subjects should share the same number because if they do, the purpose of classification, namely the bringing together of the books on each subject and the arrangement on either side of them of books on

related subjects in a gradually decreasing order of filliation, would stand defeated.

Practical classification, therefore, is essentially a process of translating the subjects of books into an artificial language of numbers, each subject getting a unique number, with the help of a preferred scheme of classification. In the practical classificatory process, what the classifier is required to do is : first to determine the exact subject treated in a book, locate the subject in the classification scheme and find out its equivalent number. This number is called the class number, that is, the number representing the class or division of knowledge to which the book belongs. There may be several books in a library dealing with the same subject and hence having the same class number. To distinguish between such books and also to facilitate their sequential arrangement an additional number called the book number is given. The book number is generally based on the author or year of publication of the book. The two numbers together, that is, the class number and the book number constitute the call number signifying the number by which a book is called for in a library. This number is usually written on a label pasted on the spine of the book and functions both as a location symbol and as a symbol that mechanises the arrangement of books on shelves.

There are several schemes of classification in vogue. The most important among them are the Decimal Classification of Melvil Dewey, Decimal Classification prepared by the International Federation for Documentation, Expansive Classification of C. A. Cutter, Library of Congress Classification; Classification of S. R. Ranganathan, Subject Classification of James Duff Brown and Bibliographic Classification of H. E. Bliss. A classification scheme is nothing but a map of knowledge in which the various branches of knowledge and their innumerable sub-divisions are demarcated in the order of the degree of relationship between them and provided with numbers.

Since knowledge is constantly expanding at a tremendous pace, a serious drawback from which most of the classification schemes suffer, is that knowledge soon outsteps them rendering them out of date almost immediately after they come out of the press. The result is that the classifier often finds himself unable to find a suitable number for a subject he has to classify. The Colon Classification and to a lesser degree the Universal Decimal Classification have been so structured and provided with built-in devices as to remedy this drawback to some extent. However, the complexity of knowledge is such that a perfect classification that would meet the demands of all situations is difficult of achievement and will always remain a desideratum. The schemes widely used in India are the Decimal Classification, Colon Classification and Universal Decimal Classification.

Library Catalogue

The rationale behind the classification of books by subject is that people come to a library more often not so much to find out whether specific books of which they know the author, title and collaborator are available as to find out what books the library possesses on the subject of their interest. Therefore the arrangement of books by their subject conforms more to this approach of readers to books. This, however, does not mean that readers will not ask for books of which they have obtained prior knowledge. They may name specific books by their authors or titles or collaborators or series and would want the technical organisation of the library to be such as to meet such approaches on their part. The tool that the library prepares for this purpose is the catalogue. The catalogue can be described as a key to the entire holdings of the library.

A library catalogue should provide as many entries for each book as the number of reasonable approaches to a book by readers. It should answer questions as the following:-

Does the library have a book by a particular author?

What all books of that author does the library have?

Does the library have a book bearing a particular title?

Does the library have books edited by so and so?

What all books under a series does the library have?

What all books on a specific subject does the library have? and so on.

The last one is the most frequent and important among the questions put to a catalogue and the efficiency of a catalogue would depend on its adequacy in this respect.

Classified Catalogue

There are two main types of catalogue, namely the Classified Catalogue and the Dictionary Catalogue. The former has two parts, the classified part and the alphabetical part. In the classified part the entries are arranged by the call numbers of the books which they represent, that is, in a systematic order of the specific subjects of the books concerned. In the alphabetical part entries in respect of the author, titles series, editor, names of subjects, etc. are arranged in one alphabetical sequence.

If a reader wants to find out whether the library has a book by a particular author, he can look for the entry bearing the name of that author. He will also have at one place all the entries relating to all the books available in the library written by that author. Similarly the alphabetical part will serve the reader by providing information in that part itself and facilitate the approach to books by their titles, names of series, editors etc. If a reader wants to know what books the library has on a given subject, he must look for the entry bearing the name of that

subject in the alphabetical part. That entry will guide him to the classified part of the catalogue and to the entries bearing the class number denoting the subject concerned. Here he will get all the entries pertaining to the books available in the library which deal with the subject. On either side of these entries he will come across entries pertaining to the books on related subjects. Therefore the subject approach of readers is very effectively met by this kind of catalogue.

The dictionary catalogue, as the name implies, is one in which all entries including subject entries are arranged in one alphabetical sequence.

More Satisfactory

As far as enquiries for books on the basis of authors, titles, series and such other features other than the subjects are concerned, there is no difference between the two types of catalogue. However, as far as the subject approach of the readers is concerned, the classified catalogue is undoubtedly more satisfactory. This is because, unlike the classified catalogue, which in the classified part reveals the books to a reader in the order of the relationship of the subjects treated in them, the dictionary catalogue will have in it entries pertaining to related subjects scattered by the alphabetical make-up of their names. Thus while in the dictionary catalogue related subjects like Algebra and Trignometry will be scattered, they will occur in close proximity in the classified catalogue. Similarly while unrelated subjects like Algebra and Agriculture will occur in close proximity in the Dictionary catalogue, they will be conveniently separated in the classified catalogue.

There are different catalogue codes with the help of which practical classification is carried out in libraries. Those commonly used in India are the "Classified Catalogue Code with additional rules for Dictionary Catalogue Code" by S. R. Ranganathan, "Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue" by Cutter and "Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules".

Card Form

The most popular physical form of the library catalogue today is the card form. After experimenting with various physical forms the library profession has almost universally opted in favour of the card form. This is because each card will represent one entry only and it can be inserted wherever needed to preserve the correct sequence of the entries. The catalogue in the card form can always be kept up-to-date in the correct sequence.

Very careful attention has to be devoted to the work of classifying and cataloging book because these are the essential tools that enable a library to make available, as expeditiously as possible, the materials needed by readers, however large the book stock of the library may be. Several processes of checking and verification are often involved before a book is finally assigned a call number and the required number of catalogue entries are prepared. On an average, four to five entries will have to be prepared for each book. The number of books that can be classified and catalogued by an experienced person is 10 to 12 per day.

National Centres

Classifications and Cataloguing are repetitive jobs done in thousands of libraries in a country in respect of the books, copies of which they severally possess. Therefore modern thinking is that there should be some kind of centralisation for such work. If the books become available in the market, already classified and cataloged, the repetitive job of classifying these books separately in the different libraries can be avoided. A more practical alternative is for one or two national centres to undertake this work for all the libraries in a country. The Library of Congress in the United States and the British National Bibliography in Britain make available printed catalogue cards of books bearing their class numbers which the individual libraries can purchase. This does not, however, mean that technical processing can be totally eliminated in individual libraries. But this would make it possible for a part of the staff now engaged in the technical processing of books to be released for reference service to readers, an area of library activity not given as much attention as it deserves in libraries in India today.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that the importance of classification and cataloging cannot be overemphasised because, without them, a library would be nothing but a chaotic collection of books. They are the means for realising the prime objective of a library which in the words of the late Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, National Professor in Library Science, is the establishment of contact between the right book and the right reader at the right time.



Microrecording is specially suited to the Trivandrum Public Library

Modern Trends in Public Library Services

OUR LIBRARIES SHOULD SLOWLY AND STEADILY MOVE INTO AN ERA OF MECHANISATION AND AUTOMATION

J. V. Vilanilam

In recent years libraries in advanced countries like the United States and the Soviet Union have become much more complex in organisation and operation than they were, say, a decade ago. Much of this complexity is due to mechanisation and automation which have acquired tremendous significance in every aspect of life in these countries.

A typewriter and a manual duplicator may be the outer limits of mechanisation in most of the libraries in India, although in the theoretical aspects of cataloguing and classification the contributions of illustrious Indians like S. R. Ranganathan are greatly valued throughout the world. The purpose of this article is to examine what the modern trends in library services are and why they originated. An attempt will also be made to evaluate the applicability or otherwise of some or all of these new developments in the public libraries of India.

The term 'library' has to be defined for the purpose of this article since the reader should not confuse it with an ordinary 500-volume 'vayanasala', which is commonplace in any interior village of Kerala. By 'library' is meant a large institution supported by public and private financing, with the aim of helping in the process of dissemination of vital information for the use of the public and the serious research scholar. One important distinction between modern libraries and libraries of half a century ago is that the useful exploitation of the collection is as important as the collection itself. Every library realising its task in present-day society not only aims at giving access to the books aud periodicals in its possession by means of catalogues, but also at having books and other materials used by the largest possible number of readers.

What Is the Need?

What is the need for a public library? Perhaps some legally inclined reader of this article will dismiss this question as 'incompetent, irrelevant, and immaterial'! The fact is that every generation should ask this question and find its own answer, as the conditions of life change and every living institution must change with them, The type and services of the public library will depend on the answer to this question.

Some may criticise that the public library exists as a

sort of obscure repository of knowledge, hardly relevant to the contemporary scheme of things Others will argue that the public library's sole reason for existence is to help people get along in the world, to help school and college students to earn higher marks, to help businessmen to make more profits, to help researchers in their dissertations, to help newspaper editors and reporters to write better editorials and reports, and so on. Every one of these is a legitimate part of library work, but there is something more than all of these in view of the tremendous changes that have occured throughout the world in science, technology, economic theories, moral attitudes, and above all in the systems of communication and information storage and retrieval. Every public library has to expose the public to these great changes so that people who are governing themselves can exercise their judgement properly and progress towards achieving certain noble ideals for the good of all. Simultaneously, it should be stressed here, the library system itself has to undergo a thorough change to cope with the newest phenomenon in the world, namely, information explosion.

There is the most urgent need for our people to broaden their intellectual horizon with all possible speed. (I am not forgetting the huge problem of illiteracy and language barriers we have yet to solve in India; but libraries cannot wait till that far distant dateline to introduce changes in their organisation and operation). The tension is the greatest upon the agencies of information—the schools, the press, the radio and television, the stage and the silver screen. But nowhere is the pressure greater than upon the public library, for it is at once the most easily available and the most independent of all these agencies. The public library must become the nucleus of our nation-building activities. This may sound a little unrealistic to many, but unless the libraries render this service to the people, our people will continue to sing the praises of our ancient culture and heritage, indulge in outmoded *sloka*-recitation and wallow in ignorance of what is happening around the world and die with an impoverished body and soul!

Minimum Functions

The minimum functions of modern library service such as logical organisation of materials for convenient use through shelf-arrangement; classification and cataloguing; lending of materials; provision of information service designed to locate facts as needed; guidance to individuals in the use of educational and recreational material; assistance to civic, cultural and educational organisations in locating and using materials for programme planning, projects and the education of members; stimulation of use and interpretation of materials through publicity, display, reading lists, story hours, book talks, film discussions are, I hope, being met by at least some public libraries in our country. It is also hoped that the materials, services, personnel and physical facilities of the public library are geared to the interests of all ages and groups in the population—the pre-school children, the teen-agers, the young adults, the adults, the serious research scholars and the retired people; Physically, the materials may cover a wide variety of items: books, periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, pictures, slides and films, music records, maps, speeches (tape-recorded) and the different forms of micro-reproduction. Together these materials provide a reservoir of knowledge for the inquiring minds to draw from.

All or some of the services mentioned above may be available in large Indian public libraries; but the processes of mechanisation and automation have not, I presume, been introduced in Indian libraries. In fact, these processes have not been implemented in all public libraries in the United States either. The large national libraries and a few big university libraries have introduced both mechanisation and automation. But even the smallest public library in the United States has some kind of mechanised service or other.

Mechanisation and Automation

Before we proceed further we should make a clear distinction between mechanisation and automation. In a way it is the distinction between mechanical means and mechanical means. Both are used to modernise library operations; but mechanisation is more easily achieved and less costly and simple to operate, whereas automation is difficult to achieve highly costly and complex to operate. Mechanical devices can be operated and serviced by nonprofessional personnel with a minimum of training. But electronic systems can be developed only by the use of the most advanced knowledge of natural phenomena, and when available, can be serviced, and probably operated, only by highly professional people.

The influence of machines on cataloguing theory and practice and on the actual production of catalogues did not become dramatic until well into the twentieth century. The feasibility of creating catalogues in book form by copying pre-existing catalogue cards was demonstrated by the appearance of *A Catalogue of Books Represented by Library of Congress Cards* in 1942. This catalogue, and its successor, the *National Union Catalogue* are catalogues produced by photographic copying of pre-existing catalogue cards and are, therefore, byproducts of a card catalogue. The adaptation of stencil and offset duplicating equipment to catalogue card reproduction firmly established the 'unit card' concept, as did the availability of printed cards.

In the 1950s, a new type of book catalogue began to appear, a type created by use of punched card or unit record equipment. Bibliographic information in these catalogues was first keypunched into tabulating cards. The cards, sorted into order by manual methods, machine methods, or a combination of the two, were periodically run through tabulating or accounting machines which printed out information represented by the punches in the cards. This information, suitably formatted, formed the text of book catalogue. The decks of punched cards were kept

in order; cards representing new library additions or deletions were added or removed as appropriate, and updated editions produced at suitable intervals. The fact that the print-out of punched information could be made into offset masters permitted production of the catalogues in many copies.

There are devices capable of photographing text onto a continuous roll of film, and are usually designed to photograph the top one, two, or three lines of text imprinted on a more or less conventional tabulating card. The remainder of the card may be punched which facilitate filing. The actual text may be imprinted by special typewriters which can use a variety of type styles and sizes and, in addition, provide a wide range of diacritics and special characters. Book catalogues produced in this manner first appeared in the Los Angeles Public Library in 1962.

Computer devices

Nowadays it is the computer and its associated input, output, storage, and control devices which is having the most profound effects upon cataloguing and catalogues. The speed and flexibility of unit record equipment have proved to be quite unimpressive compared with the speed and flexibility of the computer devices. It is only within the last ten years or so that computers have been used in catalogue production. Computer devices have been employed to manufacture catalogue cards and book catalogues. The catalogues have been designed to serve a variety of uses in a variety of types of libraries. Further, a system of representing bibliographic data in machine-readable form has been devised along with a format for distribution of such data. Much experimentation is still going on, and perhaps something of a permanent nature will evolve in the 1980s. It is not practical to go further into the different aspects of cataloguing in this essay of limited length. Suffice it to say that the card catalogue will remain the chief bibliographical listing mechanism in libraries for years to come. Book catalogues will not supplant card catalogues in large academic and research libraries, although they may find increasing use in special subject libraries. Little change from traditional cataloguing practices will be seen in card catalogues.

Machine methods have also been applied to acquisitions procedures. Although costly, automation of acquisitions procedures has been implemented in very large university and research libraries as it will help the librarians in many ways. Status reports on outstanding orders, analysis of book suppliers' performance, analysis of the time lapse before an order is executed, statistical data on how the book money is spent (by language or subject; for monographs or serials, etc.)—all these pieces of work can be done in a matter of hours with the computer if the acquisitions system is automated. If manually done, such tasks will take weeks or even months to complete and a lot of human energy will have to be wasted.

The most popular application of automation has been in the charging or checking out section of the library. The big libraries use the card punch machine or the key punch machine. Its keyboard looks like a typewriter keyboard, but instead of using typing paper it punches holes in IBM cards, and it operates at about the same speed as a typewriter. It has another feature. If there is information which is to be carried over from one card to the next, it can automatically duplicate that information, and it can print information across the top of a card. In small public libraries, there are various types of photographic charging devices by which the borrower's identification card, the book card, and the transaction card are microfilmed. Recordak Junior Microfilmer, Gaylord Electric Automatic Book Charging Machine, Remington Photocharger, Diebold Portable Microfilm Camera and Regiscope are some of the popular brand names in the field of photocharging devices.

Another important machine is the sorter. A sorter is a machine which simply arranges cards into numerical or alphabetical order depending on the holes punched in. If the shelf list is punched in, the cards can be arranged in order by author, title, or by the call number.

Valuable Machines

The collator is another valuable machine which most libraries have. It is just a mechanical file clerk and it interfiles cards. If there is a punched card circulation system and all the cards which represent books charged out are in a file, the collator can interfile the big charge file of a day's charges while simultaneously discharging cards for those that were returned. If a card is created at the time a book is returned, the collator can find its mate in the charge file and pull it out of the file. It does just what a clerk would do. Also, the collator can look for overdue books.

The tabulator, or the accounting machine, sometimes called printer, can read the punched cards and print what it reads. It is controlled by a wired panel. The machine can print, and it can also read information. If the information is numerical it can add, subtract, and multiply numbers together.

Then there is the reproducer. It reproduces cards. When the shelf list of readable keypunched cards are put into this machine with an equal number of blank cards, the machine reproduces information on the blank cards from the original cards.

The computer can do everything that all these machines can do—starting with book acquisitions records, and going through technical processing and printing of the catalogue, controlling circulation, writing overdue notices, obtaining circulation statistics, serials control, fund accounting and user registration. All these jobs can be done by the same equipment. But from an economic point of view, there is no justification for the use of computers in a library where there are only one or two applications. Where computerization is econmically justifiable (perhaps through a pooling of several large libraries), a total

system approach is what is required. Computerization also means a large investment in costly electronic installations, adequate training of library staff in the use of sophisticated machines and in programming and related techniques of computer use. In India, this will take a lot of time and money. Above all, our philosophy of library management will have to become computer-oriented.

But there are certain things which can be achieved in many of our large public libraries. Microrecording is one activity which is specially suited to and highly desirable in a library like the Trivandrum Public Library which justifiably takes pride in its old manuscript collections. It will be a great service to future generations of scholars throughout the world if those precious manuscripts can be microfilmed. I am sure that with proper publicity, the availability of these manuscripts can be made known among scholars throughout the world. If microfilm copies can be made of these records, scholars will be able to buy copies and conduct research in their special areas of interest. *Some Universities in the United States offer courses in Malayalam Language and literature.*

Use of Microfilms

Some of the uses and applications of microrecords are: economics in production, storage, collating, binding, handling and transporting; preservation and disaster controls; primary publication in microtext form of historical or scholarly material that would be too costly to reproduce in other form for limited markets; microrecording business and other records that are acceptable as evidence in courts; microforms of research material such as periodicals, newspapers, abstracts, theses, maps, charts, engineering drawings and other scientific data; microrecords used for interlibrary loans, card catalogues, charging and projection for educational library lectures.

An area where microfilming is essential is the preservation of newspapers. A microfilm roll would on a metallic or plastic spool twice the size of a typewriter ribbon spool can carry a whole month's issues of any Malayalam newspaper having an average of four pages a day. Microfilming of newspapers will not only save a lot of shelfspace, but save the material itself from destruction resulting from frequent usage, attacks of paper moths, ants, high temperatures, humidity and various other adverse environmental factors.

Microfilms can be made in 16 mm, 35 mm and 70 mm size and can be projected on the screen of a microfilm reader. The image on the screen will be of the size of the original newspaper, letter or other document so that reading will be quite easy. It will be interesting to know that the old issues of Indian newspapers including 'Manorama', 'Mathrubhoomi', 'Dinamani' and 'Navabharat Times' can be read on the microfilm readers of several American Universities, which subscribe to these Indian newspapers and get copies microfilmed by the University Microfilms Company in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Why do American libraries microfilm newspapers originating from the far corners of the world? The answer is simple. Libraries are not just places where books are stacked. They are treasure houses of information and information knows no national boundaries.

Xerox Machine

A second equipment which all our libraries can have is a Xerox copying machine. The copies produced by this machine look exactly like photocopies of the original. Within minutes hundred of 'photocopies' can be produced. When a user of the library comes across some material in a book or a journal which he ought to preserve for future reference, he can get that portion of the book or journal xeroxed. All public libraries and university libraries in the United States have several coin-operated xerox machines. (Coin-op machines are a common sight throughout this country. One can get a can of orange soda or a packet of cigarettes by putting the required coins in the vending machines and pulling a lever or pressing a button). We ought to remember that this is the result of all-round advancement in electronics and mechanization. It may take several decades for us to reach this stage of development, but it will not take more than a few months to import a few more xerox machines. (During my last visit to India, I saw a xerox machine in a business house in Madras; may be, there are many xerox machines in the country by now.) Imagine the time our scholars waste in getting large documents typed out (leaving out useful and important illustrations).

A re-orientation in our systems of education, learning, documentation, and research methodology is what is most needed in India. Libraries in advanced countries are great storage tanks of information as they have become thoroughly involved in the information explosion that has taken place and is still taking place in all parts of the globe.

Intellectual Stimuli

Mechanisation and automation become necessary in the libraries of the Soviet Union and the United States because of the great need for information storage and retrieval. To the traditional needs of man for air, water, food, and shelter, Professor Platt of the University of Chicago has added a fifth factor essential to physical survival–information. "The fifth need of man is the need for 'information' for a continuous, novel, unpredictable' nonredundant, and surprising flow of stimuli." The drive to process new information is essential to the process of intellectual growth and learning. Only a small portion of the nervous system is developed at birth; the major part grows continuously with stimulation and experience—through the absorption, communication, organising and processing of all information reaching the brain through sense perception. The task of the librarian and the documentalist, then, is to extend the under-

standing of classification, and to learn to use it more effectively in the communication of recorded information. The significance of the communication system to the ability of the individual to make the best possible decisions in every aspect of his daily life defines the context of librarianship and environment in which it must operate. Social epistemology, the function of recorded information in the actual working of society, has assumed a very significant position in the modern library world.

The contemporary world cannot exist without communication and because we live in a world order, not merely in a small city-state or nation-state, in which millions of people and vast distances are involved, most communication has to be recorded. Librarianship has always been the profession of looking after the records of civilization, and it is but proper that librarians should be involved at the centres of things in the modern world. The extension of the public library from the world of books to the world of information or documentation is important; it is equally important that the information so stored must be disseminated. This means taking the initiative in creating channels along which information may pass quickly to those who can use it. The transmission needs no underlining in an age of frequent moonlandings and skylab flights. In science, and technology, what works in Manchester and Pittsburgh can work with certain modificatious, if necessary, in Mattancheri or Pittunagar. When the amount of information runs into millions of 'bits', and the number of readers interested in each 'bit' runs into thousands, we have moved into the age of mass production, storage and dissemination of information. Have we in India felt this pressure? If we have, our libraries will slowly and steadily move into the era of mechanisation and automation.

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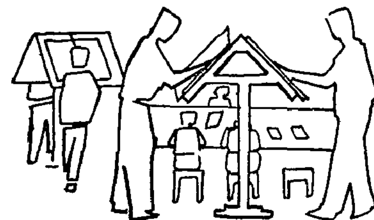
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HELPING THE READER

Tips For Using Libraries

EVERY READER HIS APPROPRIATE BOOK

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In a modern library, books of the various sections are arranged according to subjects on open shelves from which the reader may make his choice instead of presenting a call slip at a circulation desk and waiting a good two hours for his books. In an open access library, various stack room guides and shelf guides will be provided to help the readers locate books easily.

A library of appreciable size may have various sections on a functional basis. They are: Circulation Section, Reference Section, Periodicals Section, Acquisition Section, Technical Section and Maintenance Section. Of these the first three have direct relation to the readers. The Circulation Section is responsible for issue and return of books. Besides providing the reader the facility to reserve the books well in advance, this Section also helps him get books from other libraries through inter-library loans. The main function of the Reference Section is to provide personal assistance to readers in securing information and in using the resources of the library for study and research.

In many libraries, there are small sections in addition to the main collection. Where the library has collections of library materials other than books, these will also be arranged usually in separate sequence.

The childrens' section is one of the most important departments in a modern library. This section organises various special services like story hours, film shows and exhibitions. Libraries are also concerned with adult education activities in one form or the other.

By grouping books according to the subjects, a classification system brings together on the shelves all books on a particular subject such as Marketing, Crystallography, Organic Chemistry. The system is to provide a basis for organising books and other material, so that readers can find their choice easily and quickly.

Of the many classification systems in vogue, the two most generally used in Indian libraries are Dewey Decimal Classification and Colon Classification.

Dewey Decimal Classification

In this scheme, the whole Universe of Knowledge is

divided into nine main classes, with an extra class for general works.

000 Generalia	300 Social Sciences	600 Applied Sciences
100 Philosophy	400 Language	700 Fine Arts
200 Religion	500 Pure Sciences	800 Literature
		900 History including Geography, Travel and Biography.

Each of these main classes is again divided into nine divisions and this process of division is carried out to the extent necessary so that everything existing in the Universe of Knowledge is covered by one or the other of the classes. These subdivisions are continued by the addition of further digits to any extent that may be required.

Colon Classification

The Colon Classification (CC), unlike Decimal Classification, gives the fundamental units of a subject. And it prescribes the rules for the formation of the class number by combining the units with the aid of connecting symbols. CC, functions like a mechano set. The standard units of a subject correspond to the standard pieces and the connecting symbols function like bolts and nuts in a mechano apparatus.

Colon Classification divides the whole Universe of Knowledge into many main classes, and they are denoted by Roman Smalls, Indo-Arabic numbers and Roman Capitals. Besides this, CC uses few Greek letters. The main classes of CC are:

z	Generalia	I	Botany	Q	Religion
2	Library Science	J	Agriculture	R	Philosophy
A	Natural Science	K	Zoology	S	Psychology
B	Mathematics	KZ	Animal Husbandry	T	Education
C	Physics	L	Medicine	U	Geography
D	Engineering	M	Useful Arts	V	History
E	Chemistry	Δ	Spiritual and experiences Mysticism	W	Political Science
F	Technology				
G	Biology	N	Fine Arts	X	Economics
H	Geology	O	Literature	Y	Sociology
HZ	Mining	P	Linguistics	Z	Law

Each of these main classes is further divided into certain standard units on the basis of certain traits or characteristics.

Book Number

There may be more than one book on the same subject and hence with the same class number. Therefore, book numbers are provided to individualise one book from the other. The book number may be composed of the first two or three letters of the author's last name. For example, the book number of a book written by Jawaharlal Nehru will be 'NEH'. The books with the same class numbers also can be arranged among themselves according to their year of publication. CC also provides certain short symbols (J=1950's then JI=1951, K=1960's, then K3=1963 etc.) to denote the book numbers on the basis of the year of publication. The class number and the book number are together known as the call number—the unique number by which a reader or staff member call for a book. The call numbers are usually written in pencil in the book in different entries of the catalogue.

In a library, books are arranged on the shelves from left to right first by their class number and then books with the same class numbers by their book numbers. The numbers should be read as decimals and not as whole numbers.

Card Catalogue

A library catalogue is primarily a 'finding list' which is so constructed as to identify, trace and locate a document in the library concerned. The catalogue which is prepared immediately on the acquisition of books to keep the readers informed about the new additions may be in a book form, in a sheaf form or on cards. The card form is very popular and is widely used by all modern libraries because this can be kept up-to-date by adding or removing the relevant cards of the new or withdrawn books as the case may be. In a card catalogue, cards are inserted and arranged in a tray in card cabinet under the headings such as author, collaborator (editor, reviser, compilor or translator) title, series, subject or call number so as to satisfy all the approaches of the readers.

There are two types of catalogues, namely Dictionary Catalogue and Classified Catalogue. In a Dictionary Catalogue, all the cards of the author, collaborator, title, series, subjects and related reference are arranged together in one general alphabetical sequence like a dictionary.

"The classified catalogue, as the name implies, arranges subject cards, in the order established by the classification system used in the library for arranging books". It assembles all cards for the same subject at the same place, irrespective of the collections into which the books are arranged. Thus the classified part of the catalogue provides an exhaustive list of books available under a particular subject in the library.

For such a catalogue there will be an alphabetical subject index. These subject cards will direct the readers to the class number under which the books on the subject are listed in the classified part of the catalogue. Subject cards may be arranged separately or merged into one alphabetical sequence with the author, collaborator, title and series cards.

How to Use the Card Catalogue

Look for author, collaborator, title or subject, as the case may be, in the alphabetical part of the catalogue.

The drawer labels and guide cards with guide words on projected cards will help readers in locating the required information from the catalogue. When different cards have the same heading, read the other sections of the catalogue carefully. When the required book has been chosen, write down the call number, author and title on a slip as an aid in finding the book on the shelves. A book can be located from the stack room with the help of the call number alone, but time and trouble are apt to be saved and chances of error lessened if author and title are also noted.

Parts of a Book

"Books are the instruments of intelligence. The more we know them, love them, and use them, the more their inexhaustible riches are made manifest."

To make the best and the most intelligent use of a book, a reader should first of all know the important parts of a book. This will also help him understand quickly whether or not a book is trustworthy or fitted to his needs. The principal parts of an ordinary book are.

Title Page; sub-title, if any; author, collaborator, if any; place of publication; publisher and date of publication. "The author's name is particularly important because the value of what is said so often depends on who says it." On the back of the title page, the years of different editions and year of copyright are usually given. Phrases like 'Revised Edition', 'Enlarged Edition', 'Second Edition', etc. usually mean that the book has been corrected, rewritten or otherwise changed. These are important as they show how up-to-date is the information contained in a particular work. The year of reprint (that is, printed without any change), is also usually given on the back of the title page.

The table of contents is a list of chapters and other parts in the order in which they occur with the page number on which they are found. It is useful as a summary from which to gain an idea of a book without reading it through.

The preface is a preliminary statement of the scope of the book. And the introduction is usually a summary or statement of facts which must be known before the thought content of the book can be understood or appreciated. If a reader is interested to know more about a subject, the Bibliography or Reference given at the end of each chapter or at the end of the book is very much useful to him. "Bibliography is a list of books or articles the author has consulted while writing his own book or which he recommends for further reading."

An Index is an alphabetical list of all the specific topics, names of persons, places and events described or referred to in a book, with the numbers of the pages on which they are mentioned. The index will show whether a book contains information on a certain topic.

Reference Books

In libraries, the term "reference book" is made to include any book which is not lent for house use. "Any work may be used as a reference book, but strictly speaking, the term applies to books which have a great deal of information in a small space and are specially planned for finding facts quickly, such as the dictionary and the encyclopaedia".

Encyclopaedias

Encyclopaedias are usually multi volumed works which contain thousands of articles on all branches of knowledge or on a particular branch of knowledge. In the best encyclopaedias articles are often written by authorities and are reliable for the date when the encyclopaedia was published As all branches of knowledge as a whole are covered by the general encyclopaedia a special subject is frequently covered by a reference work devoted to it alone; for example McGraw-Hill Encyclopaedia of Science and Technology, Encyclopaedia of Social Science, Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics and so on. The articles in such works are often fuller and more detailed than in general encyclopaedias.

Dictionaries

A dictionary is an alphabetical list of words of languages with their meanings, pronounciation, parts of speech, origin, definition and spelling. In certain dictionaries appendix is also provided. It contains a good information like lists of proper names, abbreviations, foreign words and phrases.

Year Books, Almanacs

Year books, Almanacs, handbooks and manuals are some specific types of books intended to get a short description of the affairs, events and conditions of the world. The main purpose of many of these works is to update standard texts which may be issued or totally revised only at long intervals. Index will help the readers to locate the required information from these types of works.

Biographical Sources

"Everybody wants to know what every one else is doing, particularly the activities of the famous or the infamous". Entire books on individuals are frequently not to be had or may not be satisfactoty. Essential facts, sufficient for one's purpose, can often be found in general encyclopaedias and in biographical dictionaries. There are three main types of Biographical Dictionaries: General or Universal, National or Regional and Professional or Subject. All of these works are known as "Biographical Dictionaries" primarily because the arrangement is alphabetical by surname.

Directories

A directory is a list of persons or organisations systematically arranged, usually in alphabetical or subject order. In the case of persons their addresses

and affiliations etc. are usually found in a directory. As far as organisations are concerned, their addresses, offices, functions and similar data are included.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Geographical sources used in reference work may be divided into three large categories: maps and atlases; gazetteers and guide books. An atlas is a volume containing maps. A physical map traces the various features of the land from the rivers and valleys to the mountains and hills. A route map shows roads, railroads, bridges and the like. And a political map normally limits itself to political boundaries of towns, cities, states or nations.

A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary. "A good gazetteer includes names of towns, villages, rivers, mountains, lakes and other geographical features, population, longitude and latitude and in some cases brief entries tracing the history and economic and political features of the particular place."

A guide book is a geographical source, usually limited to a single area (town, state, region or nation) and highlights matters of general interest to the tourists. It usually presents information on hotels, motels museums, restaurants, and anything else of interest to the traveller.

PERIODICALS

Periodicals and newspapers keep one posted with what is going on around the world. The best periodicals in their current issues give the latest thought and information of the world and supplement books. They often discuss subjects not treated elsewhere, and print much material of lasting value.

Periodicals differ greatly both in the kind of subjects they handle and in their style. There are periodicals of literary value, of scholarly style, technical or specialized importance, essential to scholars and scientific and technical workers and to men and women in every field.

In a library, usually the periodicals and newspapers are organized in a separate section. The current or most recent issues of each periodical is shelved in alphabetical or subject order. Periodicals and newspapers rarely circulate for outside use because, it is often impossible to replace them if missed and it will bring inconveniences to users. Each number of periodicals has a table of contents with title, author and page numbers of the articles discussed in it Every year or in six months or any other convenient period, a volume is completed, and many periodicals. publish an index to each volume. Like the index of books, this will help to locate the specific topics, name of persons, places and events describad or referred to in a volume, with the number of pages on which they are mentioned. This is helpful to understand whether or not an information is contained in a particular volume.

For locating information from the volumes of more than one periodical, one has to make use of indexing and abstracting periodicals. These are the periodicals " in which articles published in periodicals are summarised and they are accompanied by adequate bibliographical discriptions to enable the articles to be traced and they are frequently arranged in classified order".

In addition to these general indexes, certain special libraries provide special lists of articles published in various subject periodicals to their clientele.

RULES IN GOOD SPIRIT

In order that all its readers will have an equal opportunity to use the library materials, certain rules and regulations are established in all libraries. These rules govern the kind of materials which are circulated, the length of time they can be borrowed, the overdue charged, the use of the library facilities and the hour of services. One has to follow these rules in good spirit.

A book is like a fine tool. If it is strongly made to begin with, and is handled carefully, it will wear long and give good service. If handled roughly or carelessly, it is damaged or even ruined. In reading, to turn a leaf, apply a dry forefinger. No marks or notes should be made in borrowed books. When not in use a book should be kept closed on book shelf, desk or table. For a book mark, do not fold the leaf; use a paper slip. Do not misplace a book from its correct place on the shelf, for a book misplaced is a book lost.

The library is a public property for the use of every member of the present as well as the future generation. It is a social institution which is guided by the most democratic principles, "every reader his or her appropriate book", "every book its appropriate reader" and "save the time of the reader". The services of a library, no matter how well-equipped it is, will be effective only to the extent that each member bears these cardinal principles in mind.

FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Centralised Documentation

E. Johnson

ABSTRACTING AND TRANSLATION SERVICES SHOULD ALSO BE CO-ORDINATED AT U. G. C. LEVEL

The University Library has a big role in university education. The media that connects the university and its library are the information and documentation service. Tbe Documentation Service, Information Service, University Library and University are closely connected to one another and are interlinked in a chain.

The Kothari Education Commission (1966) realised this fact fully and recommended that the universities should:

a) Provide resources necessary for research in fields of special interest to the University.
b) Aid the University teacher in keeping abreast of development in this field.
c) Provide library facilition and services necessary for the success of all formal programme of instruction.
d) Spend the door to the wide world of books that lie beyond the borders of one's own field of specialisation"
e) bring books, students and scholars together under conditions which encourage reading for pleasure, self-discovery, personal growth and the sharpening of intellectual curiosity.

In India there are now 75 universities and their interests are different. All of them are linked to the University Grant Commission in one way or other. All the universities have libraries of their own they one of different types and have documentation services in accordance with their own interest. If these documentation services are co-ordinated according to the relationship of the field of interest of the universities in their distirict fields of academic carriculam and research an inter-University information service will emerge.

Several methods are available for meeting the specialised information requirements of universities among them are abstracting, bibliographics, current awareness services, indexing, retrospective information files, union lists, microphones, tape-records, radios, television, and films. A survey conducted in 1971 by the writer showed that these documentation services are very useful especially for research workers. However such services can be successful only by co-ordination and co-operation.

Centralised Catalogue

One of the most essential pre-requisities is a centralised Union Catalogue for books, periodicals and documents. The useful-ness of a library does not merely depend upon its collection of books, but on how it functions and on the services it can render to satisfy the needs of its readers. In a country like India an the libraries are not in a position to buy all the useful books in the various modern fields of research. Union Catalogue is circulated to all university libraries, it

will give an idea what are all the books available in a particular library. If this could be prepared under the leadership of the University Grants Commission, it will greatly economise the purchase of costly publications by different university libraries. For this purpose, there should be a Central Information Service Centre at the U. G. C. which can undertake the preparation and printing of the Union Catalogue.

Every year at an appropriate time supplements should be issued to the Union Catalogue so that every university library can get an idea about the up-to-date availability of the books in every other university library. If any library requires a particular book or a particular reference, it can get on loan from any other library which has the requisite material.

For the purpose of making the Documentation Service and the Union Catalogue more effective and useful, the university libraries in the country may be divided into four regions. For example, it can be divided as follows:-

Southern region: Madras, Madurai, Annamalai, Kerala, Cochin, Calicut, Kerala Agricultural, Coimbatore Agricultural, Bangalore, Dharwar, Mysore, Bangalore Agricultural, Sri Venkateswara, Andhra, Mysore, Osmania

Northern region: Aligarh, Delhi, Allahabad, Banaras, Gorakhpur, Jammu, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kanpore, Kashmir, Kurukshetra, Punjab, Ranchi, Rourkela, Sardar Patel, Sourashtra, Udiapur, U. P. Agricultural, Varanasi Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Vikram, South Gujarat

Western region: Bombay, Lucknow, Poona, Patna, Awadhesh Pratap Singh Vishwavidyalaya, Maharaja Sayajarao University of Baroda, Gujarat, Indore, Jabalpur, Jivaji, Jodhpur, Marthwada, Nagpur, Rajasthan, Ravishankar, Sambalpur, Sagar, Shrimati Nahiba Damodar Thackersey Women's

Eastern region: Calcutta, Gauhati, Gurdaspur, Berhampur, Bihar, Burdwan, Dibrugarh, Gauhati, Jadavpur, Kalyani, Magadh, North Bengal, Rabindra Bharati, Utkal, Viswa-Bharati

Regional Committees

Four regional committees of the Chief Librarians of the universities libraries can be formed and they should decide which university library is suitable for undertaking documentation services in a particular subject. The regional committees should select five members each and form a National committee for co-ordinating the documentation service at the national level. The supervising committee should determine the types of documentation services possible now and select the subjects for documentation service at the national level.

The main subjects taught at Indian Universities are: Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaelogy, Indology, Anthropology, Architecture, Assamesé, Astronomy, Audiology and Speech therapy, Buddhist Studies, Chemistry, Commerce and Business Management, Computer Science, Co-operation, Criminology and Forensic Science, Dentistry, Dogri, Drama, Economics Applied, Islamic Studies, Journalism, Kannada, Kashmiri, Labour (Social Welfare), Law, Library Science, Linguistics, Education, Education (Physical), Engineering (all branches including Space Technology), Geophysics, Gujarati, Hindi, History, Home Arts, Home Economics, Home Science, Indian Philosophy and Religion, English, Fine Arts, Folklore Studies, Foreign Languages, Geography, Geology, Pali, Punjabi, Pharmacy, Philosophy, Physics, Physiotherapy, Planning, Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Marine Biology and Fisheries, Mathematics, Mathematics (applied), Medicine (sub divisions), Medicine (Ayurvedic), Medicine (Unani), Metallurgy, Metercology, Micro Biology, Military Science Studies, Museology, Music, Naval Architecture, Nursing, Occupation Therapy, Oceanography, Operational Research, Oriental Learning, Painting, Political Science, Prakrit, Psychology, Public Administration, Sanitary Science, Sanskrit, Sculpture, Sindhi, Social Service, Social Work, Sociology, Statistics, Tamil, Technology, Telegu, Theology, Urdu, Veterenary Science, Yogic Science, Zoology, Oriental Titles

In selecting subjects for preparing national biblioigraphies, regional languages and those subjects with limited scope in which only one or two universities are doing research can be excluded. After selecting the subjects, a committee should be formed for each particular subject at the universities where it is taught. These committees should prepare separate lists of periodicals which they are subscribing for and avoid the duplication of costly periodicals. After preparing bibliographies for each subject from available documents in a particular library, they should be quickly despatched to the right users at the right time without further delay. A bi-monthly bibliography of each subject will help the scholars, experts and research workers in gathering information about the latest contributions in the various parts of the world. The regional committee should supervise this work; the national committee should finance the service.

ABSTRACTING SERVICE

We know an abstracting service, like the documentation service, is specially useful for scientists and technologists. The national committee for documentation can also supervise the abstrating services going on in various scientific organisations.

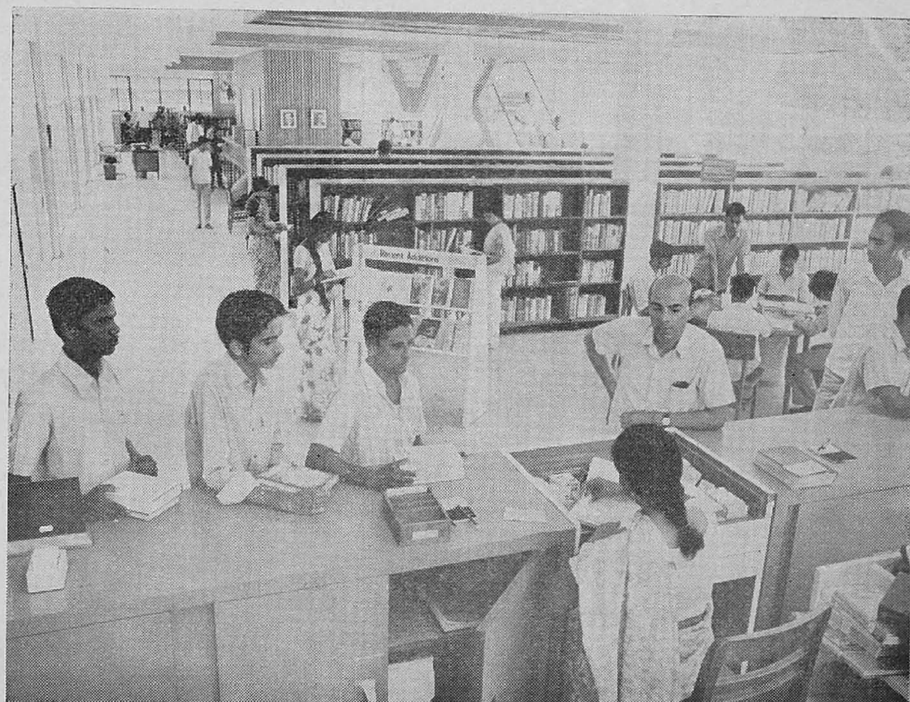
The national committee should entrust the compilation of abstracts to the university libraries according to the facilities available in each University and the library. In this also co-ordination of the work done by different University libraries will aid the preparation of complete and up-to-date Abstracts; of different subjects.

As suggested in the case of the documentation

services, in abstracting, too, regional and University level committees according to the special interests of different institutions should be formed. After compilation, the abstracts should be sent to the concerned users at an early date. Photocopies of expensive journals could be made and distributed to the various university libraries of the country.

For this purpose, a photocopying and microfilming unit should be set-up in a convenient region. Here, again, a Union Catalogue of books and a centralised list of periodicals are necessary.

Nowadays all universities are having information bureaux of their own. But for co-ordinating this service at an international level, a Central Information Service is very essential. It should be attached to the U. G. C. A translation programme in a centralised manner for foreign periodicals will be very useful and easier. Since most of the developed countries publish the results of research and studies in their own languages, it is necessary and helpful for university students and scholars to make available to them all up-to-date material in a concerted manner through this centralised translation programme.

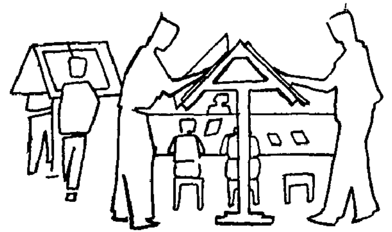


American Libraries in India

There are five American Libraries in India, one each in Bombay, Madras, and New Delhi, and two in Calcutta. These have served their Indian readers for the past quarter of a century. Membership in these libraries is free. Out of town readers are served by mail.

The five libraries offer their 100,000 members 98,000 books and 1,032 periodicals. Over 480,000 books are loaned every year for home reading. In addition, another 642,000 volumes are used within the libraries. New books and periodicals are brought to India by airshipment in order to place them in the hands of their readers at the earliest possible date after their publication in the United States.

The American Library in Madras, which serves the South, is located at Mount Road, Madras.



അറിവിന്റെ പൊട്ടിത്തെറി

ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ

ലോകത്തിൽ ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തോളം ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളും ഇവയിൽ കൊല്ലംതോറും അഞ്ചുകോടിയോളം ലേഖനങ്ങളും പുറത്തിറങ്ങുന്നു. ഇവയെല്ലാം വില കൊടുത്തു വാങ്ങാനും, വാങ്ങിയെങ്കിൽതന്നെ വായിച്ചു തീർക്കാനും ആർക്കു കഴിയും?

എ. കെ. പണിക്കർ

അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് ലൈബ്രേറിയൻ,
കേരള യൂണിവേഴ്സിററി ലൈബ്രറി

വായനക്കാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം വായുവും ജലവും, സൂര്യപ്രകാശവും പോലെ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളും ജീവിതത്തിന് ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാൻ വയ്യാത്തവയായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. സ്വന്തം പാണ്ഡിത്യമേഖലയിൽ ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പുത്തൻ ആശയങ്ങളുമായി നിത്യ നൂതനമായ സമ്പർക്കം പുലർത്തുവാൻ സഹായിക്കുന്ന ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ പുറത്തിറങ്ങുന്നതും നോക്കി കാത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ബുദ്ധിജീവികളുടെയെന്നപോലെ വിനോദത്തിനോ, അലസതാനിർമ്മാർജ്ജനത്തിനോ വേണ്ടിമാത്രം വായിക്കുന്നവരുടെ കാര്യത്തിലും ഇതാണ് വാസ്തവം.

ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ, ഗ്രാമത്തിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ രംഗത്തും ഗവേഷണ മേഖലയിലും ഒക്കെത്തന്നെ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾക്ക് സമമായോ, അതിലും കൂടുതലായോ ഉള്ള പ്രാധാന്യം ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾക്ക് നൽകിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. വിനോദം, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, ഗവേഷണം തുടങ്ങി ഭിന്നലക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾക്കനുസരണമായി പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ ലാളിത്യത്തിലും ഗുരുത്വത്തിലും വിഷയവൈവിധ്യത്തിലും മാററങ്ങളുണ്ടെന്നേയുള്ളൂ.

പുസ്തകങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ പൂർണ്ണമായ രൂപത്തിലല്ല, നിശ്ചിത കാലയളവുകളിൽ—ആഴ്ചയിലൊരിക്കലോ, രണ്ട് ആഴ്ചയിൽ ഒരിക്കലോ, മാസത്തിൽ ഒരു തവണയോ—ആണ് ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ പുറത്തുവരുന്നത്. ഒരു പ്രാവശ്യം പുറത്തുവരുന്ന ഭാഗത്തെ സാധാരണയായി ലക്കം എന്ന് വിളിച്ചുവരുന്നു; ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തിന്റെ കാലയളവിൽ പുറത്തുവരുന്ന ലക്കങ്ങളെയാകെ വോള്യം എന്നും.

ലൈബ്രേറിയന്റെ കണ്ണിലെണ്ണ

പുതിയ ലക്കത്തിന്റെ വരവ് എത്ര ആകാംക്ഷയോടാണ് ആളുകൾ കാത്തിരിക്കാറുള്ളത്! പുതിയ ലക്കം എത്ര വേഗം ലൈബ്ററിയിൽ എത്തുന്നുവെന്നതിനെ ആശ്രയിച്ചാണ് ലൈബ്ററിയുടെ യശസ്സും ലൈബ്രേറിയനെപ്പററിയുള്ള മതിപ്പും സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നത്. കണ്ണിലെണ്ണ ഒഴിച്ച മാതിരിയാണ് ലൈബ്ററി ജീവനക്കാർ ഏതൊരു കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിന്റേയും പുതിയൊരു ലക്കത്തിന്റെ വരവ് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കാറുള്ളത്.

ഈ ജാഗ്രതക്ക് മറെറാരു കാരണംകൂടിയുണ്ട്. പുസ്തകം ഏതു കാലത്തും വാങ്ങുവാൻ കിട്ടും. അച്ചടിച്ച പ്രതികൾ തീർന്നുപോയാൽ പുനർമുദ്രണം ചെയ്യും; പരിഷ്കരിച്ച പതിപ്പുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകും. കാലികപ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യം അതല്ല. പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ച ഘട്ടത്തിൽത്തന്നെ വാങ്ങിയില്ലെ

കിൽ പിന്നീടൊരിക്കലും കിട്ടുകയില്ല. ആവശ്യക്കാർ എത്രയുണ്ടെന്ന് മുൻകൂട്ടി മനസ്സിലാക്കിയശേഷം മാത്രമെ ആനുകാലികങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതികൾ മുദ്രണം ചെയ്യാറുള്ളു. ആവശ്യത്തിന്റെ വ്യാപ്തി അറിയുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രധാന മാർഗ്ഗം ഒരു കൊല്ലക്കാലത്തെ ലക്കങ്ങളുടെ വില മുൻകൂറായി ആവശ്യപ്പെടുക എന്നതുതന്നെ. വിനോദപാരായണത്തിനുള്ള കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളാണെങ്കിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ മുൻകൂർ വിലയുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ അൽപമൊരു അയവ് ഉണ്ടായി എന്നു വരാം. എന്നാൽ പാണ്ഡിത്യപരമായ കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇതു് കർക്കശമായി പാലിച്ചു കാണുന്നു.

പുതിയ അറിവിനു വെളിച്ചം

അറിവ് ഒരു മഹാസമുദ്രമാണെങ്കിൽ കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളെ ഈ സമുദ്രത്തിന്റെ തീരങ്ങളിൽ തല്ലിതല്ലി ചിതറി വീഴുന്ന തിരമാലകളായി ചിത്രീകരിക്കാമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. അറിവിന്റെ അതിർവരമ്പുകൾ വികസിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള അക്ഷീണവും അവിശ്രമവുമായ യത്നത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ 'നവജാത വിജ്ഞാനവാഹികൾ' എന്ന പേരിലാണ് അറിയപ്പെടുന്നതു്. ഏതൊരു ആശയവും ആദ്യം വെളിച്ചം കാണുന്നതു് ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിലായിരിക്കും—ഒരു വിശേഷവാർത്തയായോ, കുറിപ്പിന്റെ രൂപത്തിലോ, ലേഖനരൂപത്തിലോ. ഗവേഷണ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ ന്യൂസ് ലെററുകൾ, ബുള്ളററിനുകൾ, നടപടിക്കുറിപ്പുകൾ തുടങ്ങിയ കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഇതു് എത്രയോ ശരിയാണ്.

'അമേരിക്കൻ കെമിക്കൽ സൊസൈററിയുടെ കെമിക്കൽ ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്റ്റ്സ്" കെമിസ്ട്രിയിലും അനുബന്ധ വിഷയങ്ങളിലും പെട്ട ആറായിരത്തിലേറെ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിൽ വരുന്ന 13,000 ത്തോളം ലേഖനങ്ങളുടെ കുറിപ്പുകൾ ആഴ്ചതോറും 700ഓളം പുറങ്ങളിലായി വായനക്കാരുടെ മുമ്പിലെത്തിക്കുന്നു.

പുതിയൊരു വസ്തുത ഒരു കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിൽ ലേഖന രൂപത്തിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകൃതമാവുകയും, പിൽക്കാലത്തു് വികാസം നേടി പുസ്തകമായിത്തീരുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനിടയ്ക്ക് ചുരുങ്ങിയതു് എട്ടു കൊല്ലക്കാലമെങ്കിലും കടന്നുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്ന് പുരോഗതി നേടിയ രാഷ്ട്രങ്ങളിലെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളെ അവലോകനം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു ഗ്രന്ഥകാരൻ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. ഏതു പുതിയ പുസ്തകത്തിലെ പ്രതിപാദ്യത്തിനും ചുരുങ്ങിയതു് എട്ടു കൊല്ലക്കാലത്തെ പഴക്കമുണ്ടായിരിക്കും എന്നാണ് ഇതിനർത്ഥം. മറെറാരു തരത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ, പുസ്തകങ്ങളെമാത്രം ആധാരമാക്കി ഗവേഷണവും പഠനവും നടത്തുന്ന ഒരാൾ നൂതന ആശയങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന്—സത്യത്തിൽ നിന്ന് സദാ ബഹുദൂരം പിന്നിൽ ആയിരിക്കും.

പാണ്ഡിത്യ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകൾക്ക് ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ പ്രാണവായുപോലെ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ളതായിത്തീരുവാൻ കാരണം ഇതുതന്നെ. ഈ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുമായുള്ള സമ്പർക്കം അവർക്ക് ഒഴിവാക്കാനേ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ഒരു പ്രത്യേക വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവേഷണം ചെയ്യുന്നവരായി ലോകത്തിന്റെ നാനാ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ എത്രയോ ആളുകൾ ഉണ്ട്. ഓരോ ആളും കൈവരിക്കുന്ന പുരോഗതി യഥാകാലം മററുള്ളവർ അറിയുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള നേട്ടം വളരെ വ്യക്തമാണ്: അറിയപ്പെട്ടുകഴിഞ്ഞ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പററിയുള്ള വൃഥാ അന്വേഷണം നിർത്തിവച്ച് അവശേഷിക്കുന്ന മററു കാര്യങ്ങളുടെ അന്വേഷണം തുടങ്ങാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ സൗകര്യം ഗവേഷണത്തിന്റെ ആഗോള പുരോഗതി, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് ശാസ്ത്ര—സാങ്കേതിക രംഗങ്ങളിൽ, ത്വരിതപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ആവശ്യമാണ്.

ഒരു ലക്ഷം വിജ്ഞാനവാഹികൾ

'അറിവിന്റെ പൊട്ടിത്തെറി' എന്നതു് ഇന്നൊരു നിത്യ ശൈലിയായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ലോകത്തെമ്പാടും സംഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ പൊട്ടിത്തെറിയുടെ ശബ്ദം ആദ്യം മുഖരിതമാകുന്നതു് ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിലാണ്. വിനോദവായനക്കുള്ള കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ മുഴുവൻ ഒഴിവാക്കിയാലും വിജ്ഞാന ശാഖകളിൽ ഗൗരവപൂർവ്വമായ പഠനങ്ങളും കണ്ടുപിടിത്തങ്ങളും അനാവരണം ചെയ്യുന്ന ഉള്ളടക്കത്തോടുകൂടിയ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തോളം വരും. World List of Scientific Periodicals, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, Ayer Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals (USA) "Benn's Newspaper Press Directory" (UK) തുടങ്ങിയ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ ഈ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ പേരുകളും മററു വിവരങ്ങളും പ്രകാശിപ്പിക്കുന്ന കൃതികളാണ്. ഈ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിൽ ആകെ അഞ്ചു കോടിയോളം ലേഖനങ്ങൾ കൊല്ലംതോറും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ചുവരുന്നു. അവയിൽ 30 ശതമാനം ആവർത്തനമെന്ന് കരുതിയാലും മൂന്നു കോടിയോളം ലേഖനങ്ങൾ പുതിയ ആശയങ്ങൾ ആവിഷ്കാരം ചെയ്യുന്നവയാണെന്ന് കരുതേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വസ്തുതയാണ് 'അറിവിന്റെ പൊട്ടിത്തെറി' എന്ന ആശയത്തിൽനിന്ന് നാം മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടതു്.

അറിവിന്റെ ഈ പൊട്ടിത്തെറിയുടെ ശബ്ദം പൂർണ്ണമായി ആരെങ്കിലും കേൾക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ? ഒരാളെങ്കിലും ഉണ്ട് എന്നു് പറയുന്നതു് സൂക്ഷിച്ചു വേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്തെന്നാൽ ലോകത്തിലെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട 65 ഭാഷകളിൽ നൂതന വിജ്ഞാനത്തിന്റെ പ്രകാശനം നടക്കുന്നു. 65 ഭാഷകളും അറിയുന്നവരായി ആരുണ്ട്? ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽത്തന്നെ ഇവ വായിച്ചുതീർക്കുക മനുഷ്യസാധ്യമാണോ? പുറമെ ഇവയെല്ലാം വാങ്ങാനുള്ള വകയെവിടെ?

കെമിസ്ട്രിയിൽമാത്രം പതിനായിരം

പ്രത്യേകിച്ചൊരു വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവേഷണമോ, പഠനമോ നടത്തുന്ന ഒരാൾ സ്വന്തം വിഷയത്തിലെ ലേഖനങ്ങൾ വായിച്ചുനോക്കുവാൻ പരിശ്രമിച്ചു എന്നു വരാം. കെമിസ്ട്രിയിൽ താല്പര്യമുള്ള ഒരു ഗവേഷകൻ കെമിസ്ട്രിയിൽപ്പെടുന്ന ലേഖനങ്ങളിൽ മാത്രമായി താല്പര്യം ഒതുക്കിനിറുത്തുമെന്ന് കരുതുക. എന്നാൽ കെമിസ്ട്രി എന്ന ശാഖയിൽതന്നെ പതിനായിരത്തോളം ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ പുറത്തിറങ്ങുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണ് കണക്ക്. ജപ്പാൻ, റഷ്യ, ചൈന, ജർമ്മനി, ഇംഗ്ലണ്ട്, അമേരിക്ക തുടങ്ങിയ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽനിന്നാണ് നല്ലൊരുഭാഗം പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ വരുന്നതു്. ഇവയെല്ലാം ഒരാൾക്ക് വാങ്ങാൻ കഴിയുമോ? എത്ര സമ്പന്നമായ സ്ഥാപനത്തിനുപോലും സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ഈ വിഷമാവസ്ഥയിൽനിന്ന് രക്ഷപ്പെടുവാനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടുകളാണ് കാലിക ഇൻഡെക്സിംഗ് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളും ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടിംഗ് ആനുകാലികങ്ങളും.

ഇൻഡെക്സിംഗും ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടിംഗും

ഇൻഡെക്സിംഗ്—ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടിംഗ് കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ വിവിധ വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ അതതു കാലം

പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ലേഖനങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള വിവരങ്ങൾ നൽകുന്നു. വിഷയനാമം, ലേഖകന്റെ പേര്, ലേഖനനാമം, ലേഖനം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിന്റെ പേരും ലക്കവും എന്നിവ മാത്രമേ ഇൻഡെക്സുകൾ പ്രധാനമായി വെളിപ്പെടുത്താറുള്ളൂ. ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടിംഗ് ജേണലുകൾ ലേഖനത്തിന്റെ ചുരുക്കംകൂടി നൽകും. ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടുകളും ഇൻഡെക്സുകളും നോക്കി ആവശ്യമായ ലേഖനങ്ങൾ തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുകയും ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തവ നിരാകരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാം. സംക്ഷേപങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് തൃപ്തി അടയാത്തവർക്ക് ലേഖനങ്ങളുടെ പൂർണ്ണമായ പാഠഭാഗങ്ങൾ സമ്പാദിച്ചെടുക്കുവാനും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടില്ല. നേരിട്ട് ബന്ധപ്പെടുവാൻ കഴിയുന്ന ഏതെങ്കിലും ലൈബ്രറിയിൽ ആ ലേഖനം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണം ഉണ്ടായി എന്നു വരാം. ഇല്ലാത്ത പക്ഷം അകലെയുള്ള ലൈബ്രറിയിൽനിന്നു് ടൈപ്പ് ചെയ്ത പകർപ്പുകളോ ഫോട്ടോസ്റ്റാററ് പ്രതികളോ സമ്പാദിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതിനു് സഹായിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ പ്രാദേശിക നിലവാരത്തിലും ദേശീയ നിലവാരത്തിലും ഉണ്ട്. ലേഖനം അന്യഭാഷയിലാണെങ്കിൽ സ്വന്തഭാഷയിലേക്കുള്ള തർജ്ജമയും ഈ രീതിയിൽ സമ്പാദിക്കാം. ഡൽഹിയിലെ 'ഇന്ത്യൻ നാഷനൽ സയന്റിഫിക് ഡോക്കുമെന്റേഷൻ സെന്റർ' (INSDOC) ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ സഹായിക്കുന്ന ഇന്ത്യൻ സ്ഥാപനമാണ്. ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടിംഗ്—ഇൻഡെക്സിംഗ് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ നടത്തിപ്പുകാരും ഈ വക സേവനങ്ങൾ അനുഷ്ഠിച്ചുവരുന്നു.

കെമിക്കൽ ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്

വിശ്രുതമായ ഒരു ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടിംഗ് കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിനു് ഉദാഹരണമായി അമേരിക്കൻ കെമിക്കൽ സൊസൈററി, ഓഹിയോ, പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്ന 'കെമിക്കൽ ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്' ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ പ്രതിവാര പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണം കെമിസ്ട്രിയിലും അനുബന്ധവിഷയങ്ങളിലും പെട്ട ആയിരത്തിലേറെ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിൽ വരുന്ന ലേഖനങ്ങളുടെ സാരസംഗ്രഹങ്ങൾ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്നു. മാതൃഭൂമി ആഴ്ചപ്പതിപ്പിന്റെ വലിപ്പത്തിൽ ഉദ്ദേശം 700 പുറങ്ങൾ ഓരോ ലക്കത്തിലുമുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. കൊല്ലത്തിൽ അങ്ങനെ 52 ലക്കങ്ങൾ; പുറമെ മൂന്നു് ബൃഹത് ഇൻഡെക്സുകളും- വിഷയനാമ, ഗ്രന്ഥകാര, ഫോർമുല ഇൻഡെക്സുകൾ. ഓരോ ലക്കത്തിലും ഉദ്ദേശം 13,000 ലേഖനങ്ങളുടെ കുറിപ്പുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും. വാർഷിക വരിസംഖ്യ 24,000രൂപ. ഈ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിനു് ആവശ്യമായ ലേഖന സംഗ്രഹങ്ങൾ രചിക്കാനും ആഴ്ചതോറും അച്ചടിച്ചു വിതരണം ചെയ്യുവാനും ഒരുക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള സാങ്കേതികവും ഭരണപരവുമായ സംവിധാനങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ സങ്കല്പ സീമകൾക്കതീതമാണ്.

ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടുകളുടേയും ഇൻഡെക്സുകളുടേയും രചന സംബന്ധിച്ച ശാസ്ത്രശാഖയാണു് 'ഡോക്കുമെന്റേഷൻ'. ഡോക്കുമെന്റേഷനിൽ ഉന്നത പരിശീലനം നൽകുന്നതിനു് ബാംഗ്ലൂരിൽ ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമുണ്ട് - ഡി. ആർ. ടി. സി. (ഡോക്കുമെന്റേഷൻ റിസർച്ച് ട്രെയിനിംഗ് സെന്റർ). അത്യാസക്തിയും അർപ്പണമനോഭാവവും ഉള്ള ലൈബ്രേറിയന്മാരുടെ അക്ഷീണയത്നങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നാണു് ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടുകളും ഇൻഡെക്സുകളും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു്.

കെമിസ്ട്രിയിൽ മാത്രമല്ല മററനേകം വിഷയങ്ങളിലും 'ബയൊളോജിക്കൽ ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്,' 'ബയോ റിസർച്ച് ഇൻഡെക്സ്', 'ഫിസിക്സ് ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്', 'ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്' 'സൈക്കൊളോജിക്കൽ ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്', 'സോഷ്യൊളാജിക്കൽ ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്', 'ലൈബ്രറി ആൻഡ് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ സയൻസ് ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്', തുടങ്ങി ഒട്ടനേകം ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടുകൾ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളായി ഉണ്ട്. 'ഇന്ത്യൻ സയൻസ് ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്സ്', 'ഇൻഡെക്സ് ഇന്ത്യ', 'ഗൈഡ് ടു ഇന്ത്യൻ പീരിയോഡിക്കൽ ലിററേച്ചർ,' തുടങ്ങിയവ ഇന്ത്യൻ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾക്കു് ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളാണ്. ഗവേഷണവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ഒരു സ്ഥാപനത്തിനും ആബ്സ്ട്രാക്ടുകളും ഇൻഡെക്സുകളും കണ്ടില്ലെന്നു നടിക്കാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ വിപുലമായി വാങ്ങുകയും സൂക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ഭാരിച്ച ബാദ്ധ്യതക്കു് സാരമായ ആശ്വാസം കിട്ടുവാനുംകൂടി അവ ഉപകരിക്കുന്നു.

സർവ്വകലാശാലയിൽ കൊല്ലത്തിലായിരം

ഗവേഷണ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം പുസ്തകങ്ങളെക്കാൾ പ്രാധാന്യം കാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾക്കു തന്നെയാണ്. പുസ്തകങ്ങളും മററും വാങ്ങുവാൻ വകയിരുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള തുകയുടെ പകുതിയിൽ കൂടുതൽ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ചെലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കേരള യൂണിവേഴ്സിററി ലൈബ്രറിയിൽ 2 ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപ വില വരുന്ന 1000ത്തോളം ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ ഈ അടുത്ത കാലംവരെ കൊല്ലംതോറും വരുത്തിവന്നിരുന്നു. തുകയിൽ കുറവ് ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം പകുതിയോളം കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. കുതിച്ചുകയറുന്ന വിലതന്നെ മുഖ്യകാരണം.

ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിൽ പലതും ശാശ്വതമൂല്യമുള്ളവയാണ്. 'ഭാഷാപോഷിണി,' 'കൈരളി' തുടങ്ങിയ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ പഴയ ലക്കങ്ങൾ വില തീരാത്ത കൈമുതലായി പലരും സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവച്ചു കാണാറുണ്ടല്ലോ. ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിൽ പ്രകാശിതമാകുന്ന പുതിയ ആശയങ്ങൾ എല്ലാംതന്നെ പിൽക്കാലത്തു് പുസ്തകരൂപത്തിൽ ആവിഷ്കൃതമായിക്കൊള്ളണമെന്നില്ല. ചെറിയൊരു ശതമാനം മാത്രമേ പുസ്തകരൂപത്തിൽ വികാസം നേടിവരുന്നുള്ളു എന്നതാണു് സത്യം. ശേഷിച്ചവ മറെറാരിടത്തും ലഭ്യമല്ലാത്ത വിവരങ്ങളായി ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ ഏടുകൾക്കിടയിൽ സുഷുപ്തി പൂണ്ടുപോകുന്നു. ആവശ്യക്കാരൻ വിളിച്ചുണർത്തുന്നതുവരെ അവ നിർജ്ജീവമായിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന ആളിനു് ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന നിമിഷം ആഗ്രഹിച്ച വിവരങ്ങൾ ആയാസരഹിതമായി കണ്ടെത്തുവാൻ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ വേണ്ട വിധത്തിൽ അടുക്കിക്കെട്ടി കെട്ടുറപ്പോടെ ബയൻഡു ചെയ്തു് ലൈബ്രറികളിൽ സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഒരു കാരണവശാലും അവ പുറത്തുകൊണ്ടുപോയി വായിക്കുവാൻ നൽകാറില്ല. ലൈബ്രറിയിൽവച്ചു നോക്കുവാൻ മാത്രമേ അനുവദിക്കാറുള്ളു. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു വോള്യത്തിനോ ഭാഗത്തിനോ നഷ്ടം സംഭവിച്ചാൽ മറെറാരു പ്രതി വാങ്ങുവാൻ കിട്ടുകയില്ലല്ലോ.

അടുത്ത കാലത്തു് ഓരോരോ പ്രദേശത്തെ വിവിധ ലൈബ്രറികളിൽ സംഭരണം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതും, ശാസ്ത്രവിഷയങ്ങളിൽ പെട്ടവയുമായ ആനുകാലിക പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെ റീജനൽ കാററലോഗുകൾ ഡൽഹിയിലെ 'ഇൻസ്ഡോക്' തയ്യാറാക്കി പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. "റീജണൽ യൂണിയൻ കാററലോഗ് അഫ് സയൻറിഫിക് സീരിയൽസ്: കേരള" കേരളത്തെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണ്. ഐ. സി. എസ്. എസ്. ആർ. (ഇന്ത്യൻ കൗൺസിൽ അഫ് സോഷ്യൽ സയൻസ് റിസർച്ച്) സദൃശമായ ഒരു പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണം സാമൂഹിക ശാസ്ത്രവിഷയങ്ങളിൽപ്പെട്ട ആനുകാലികങ്ങളെ പുരസ്കരിച്ചു് നിർമ്മിച്ചു വരുന്നു. ഈ കാററലോഗുകളിൽ നിന്നു് പ്രത്യേകമൊരു പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യമായ വോള്യം ഏററവും അടുത്തു ലഭ്യമാവുന്ന ലൈബ്രറി ഏതാണെന്നു് ഒരാൾക്കറിയുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നു. ഈ ഇനത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ആദ്യകാല ഇന്ത്യൻ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിൽ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതാണു് 'യൂണിയൻ കാററലോഗ് അഫ് ലേണഡ് പീരിയോഡിക്കൽസ് ഇൻ സൗത്ത് ഏഷ്യ' എന്ന പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണം.

മലയാളത്തിൽ വിജ്ഞാനസാഹിത്യം

കേരള ഭാഷാ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിന്റെ 225 പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളിൽ ചിലത്

ചരിത്രം, ധനശാസ്ത്രം, രാഷ്ട്രതന്ത്രം, തത്ത്വചിന്ത

1.	ഭാരത ബൃഹച്ചരിത്രം (ഒന്നാം ഭാഗം)	മജുംദാർ, ദത്ത	8.00
2.	ഭാരത ബൃഹച്ചരിത്രം (രണ്ടാം ഭാഗം)	മജുംദാർ, ദത്ത	9.00
3.	ഇന്ത്യാ ചരിത്രം (ഒന്നാം ഭാഗം)	പ്രൊ. കുഞ്ഞിപ്പക്കി മുഹമ്മദലി	4.75
4.	ഇന്ത്യാചരിത്രം (രണ്ടാം ഭാഗം)	പ്രൊ. കുഞ്ഞിപ്പക്കി, മുഹമ്മദലി	7.00
5.	ഇന്ത്യൻ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ചരിത്രം (ഒന്നാം ഭാഗം)	താരാചന്ദ്	13.25
6.	ഇന്ത്യൻ ദേശീയതയുടെ സാമൂഹ്യ പശ്ചാത്തലം	ഡോ. ദേശായ്	13.75
7.	ഭാരതീയ ചിന്ത	കെ. ദാമോദരൻ	16.50
8.	ഭാരത ചരിത്രം (ഒന്നാം ഭാഗം)	ഏ. ജി. മേനോൻ	15.50
9.	ഇന്ത്യാ ചരിത്രം (പ്രാചീനകാലം)	റൊമീലാ ഥാപ്പർ	3.25
10.	ഇന്ത്യാ ചരിത്രം (മധ്യകാലം)	റൊമീലാ ഥാപ്പർ	4.00
11.	ഇന്ത്യ, പാകിസ്ഥാൻ, ചൈന	ഡോ. കെ. എൻ. രാജ്	2.50
12.	ഇന്ത്യൻ സാമ്പത്തിക പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ	ജി. ചന്ദ്രൻപിള്ള	13.00
13.	കേരളത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തിക വികസനം	ഒരു സംഘം ലേഖകർ	7.25
14.	ഭൂപരിഷ്കരണങ്ങളും സാമൂഹ്യ സാമ്പത്തിക പരിവർത്തനവും– കേരളത്തിൽ	ഡോ. ഉമ്മൻ	3.00
15.	ലോകചരിത്രം (ഒന്നാം ഭാഗം)	പ്രൊ. പി. എസ്. വേലായുധൻ	9.50
16. 17	സോവിയറ്റ് യൂണിയൻ (സംക്ഷിപ്ത ചരിത്രം രണ്ടു ഭാഗങ്ങൾ)		10.00
18.	അമേരിക്കൻ ഐക്യനാടിന്റെ ചരിത്രം വിവർത്തകൻ;	കെ. രാമകൃഷ്ണപിള്ള	14.75 9.00
19.	ആധുനിക യുഗത്തിലെ വിപ്ലവങ്ങൾ	ഒരു സംഘം ലേഖകർ	9.00
20.	ആധുനിക ഭരണഘടനകൾ	ഒരു സംഘം ലേഖകർ	15.00
21.	ഇന്ത്യയിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം	പ്രൊ: ശങ്കരൻ നായർ	5.50
22.	പബ്ലിക് റിലേഷൻസ്	ഇ. എം. കോവൂർ	5.00
23.	മലയാളം ചുരുക്കെഴുത്തു മാനവൽ		10.50
24.	സമര സംവിധാനം	ലെഫ്. കേണൽ ശിവരാമൻ നായർ	6.25

എൻജിനീയറിങ്

25.	കംപ്യൂട്ടർ	വി. കെ. ദാമോദരൻ	4.50
26.	മോട്ടോർ സൈക്കിൾ: വിവർത്തകൻ;	പി. ഉണ്ണികൃഷ്ണൻ	4.00
27.	മോട്ടാർകാർ വിവർത്തകൻ:	സി. വേണുഗോപാലൻ	5.25
28.	ട്രാക്ടർ: വിവർത്തകൻ:	പി. പരമേശ്വരൻ	5:75
29.	റേഡിയോ എൻജിനീയറിങ്	എം. എം. ഹേമചന്ദ്രൻ	7.25

ഭൗതികശാസ്ത്രങ്ങൾ

30.	ഒന്ന്, രണ്ട്, മൂന്ന്... അനന്തം	ഗാമോവ്	10.00
31	മഴവില്ലും ഒമ്പതു നിറങ്ങളും	സ്റെറൻഹൗസ്	11.00
32.	ഐൻസ്റ്റൈന്റെ ആപേക്ഷികതാ സിദ്ധാന്തവും	ഏ. സി. വാസു	2.25
33.	അണുകേന്ദ്രീയശക്തി	ഡോ. ബാബു ജോസഫ്	7.00
34.	രസതന്ത്രം നിത്യജീവിതത്തിൽ	പ്രൊ. തോമസ്	6.00

കൃഷി, മൃഗപരിപാലനം, ഗ്രാമവികസനം

35.	കാർഷിക വിളകൾ	ഒരു സംഘം ലേഖകർ	35.00
36.	ഉദ്യാനകൃഷി	അപ്പുക്കുട്ടൻനായർ	3.25
37.	കാർഷികാഭിവൃദ്ധി കൈവരിക്കാൻ- വിവർത്തകൻ;	രവിവർമ	5.25
38.	മാവും മാങ്ങയും	കെ. കണ്ണൻ	10.00
39.	മൃഗസംരക്ഷണം	പി. ആർ. മൂർത്തി	4.50
40.	കോഴിവളർത്തൽ	കൊച്ചുഗോവിന്ദനുണ്ണി ഗോപാലകൃഷ്ണൻനായർ	10.00
41.	കൃത്രിമബീജാധാനം കന്നുകാലികളിൽ	കെ. എൻ. ശ്രീനിവാസൻ	3.00
42.	ജന്തുരോഗങ്ങൾ	ഒരു സംഘം ലേഖകർ	22.50
43.	കന്നുകാലിസംരക്ഷണം	ഒരു സംഘം ലേഖകർ	28.00

ജീവശാസ്ത്രം

44 } 45	ജീവശാസ്ത്രം (രണ്ടു ഭാഗങ്ങൾ)	എൻ സി ഇ ആർ ടി	2.25 4.00
46.	പരിണാമം	ഒരു സംഘം ലേഖകർ	14.50
47.	നവഡാർവിനിസം	എൻ. സി. നായർ	5.00
48.	ഇന്ത്യാസമുദ്രം	ഒരു സംഘം ലേഖകർ	6.25
49.	ഇന്ത്യൻ സസ്തനങ്ങൾ	ഡോ. ആർ എസ്. പിള്ള	6.00

ആരോഗ്യം, വൈദ്യശാസ്ത്രം

50.	ഫിസിയോളജി	ഡോ. മാധവൻകുട്ടി	5.25
51.	സമീകൃതാഹാരം: വിവർത്തക	കെ. മാലതി	8.25
52.	ക്യാൻസർ	ഡോ. എം. കെ. നായർ	4.00
53.	ബാലചികിത്സ	ഡോ. രഥീന്ദ്രൻ	16.00

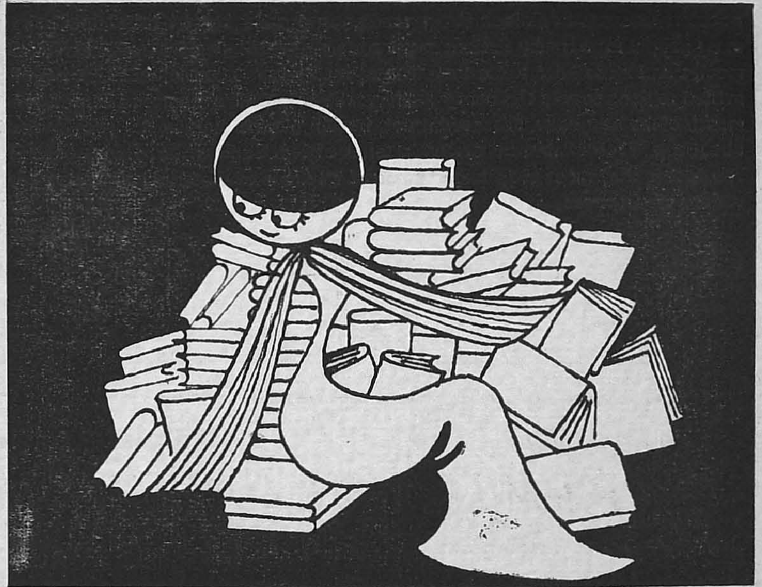
ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ എല്ലാ പ്രമുഖ ബുക്ക്സ്റ്റാളുകളിലും കിട്ടും.

എല്ലാ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളുടെയും വിശദവിവരങ്ങളടങ്ങിയ കാറ്റലോഗിനും, കമ്മിഷൻ വ്യവസ്ഥകൾക്കും മററും നേരിട്ട് എഴുതുക:

ഡയറക്ടർ

കേരള ഭാഷാ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട്

നാളന്ദ, തിരുവനന്തപുരം–3



BOOKS OF KNOWLEDGE IN MALAYALAM

VIEW FROM INSIDE

Most literate people read many kinds of material for many different reasons... Other popularly accepted opinions about reading in general can be listed indefinitely: most people read trashy fiction; most people read substantial books in libraries; the movies and radio have taken the place of reading for most people; farms and sparsely settled regions supply the heavy readers; the astonishing success of the book-of-the month clubs has made the reading of books almost universal; people read mostly about sex. Each of these is stated in terms of black and white. Hence none is correct. The fact is that most people read some of all kinds of material and for a wide variety of purposes.

Dr. Douglas Waples

"These books are not cloth and ink and paper, they are persons"

- *Fred Eastman* in his *"Books That Have Shaped the World"*

Every discourse ought to be a living creature, having a body of its own, and a head and feet; there should be a middle, beginning and end, adapted to one another and to the whole.

Plato: "Phaedrus", in *Dialogues*

No sooner had we made our bow to Mr. Cambridge, in his library, than Johnson ran eagerly to one side of the room, intent on pouring over the backs of the books .... Mr. Cambridge, upon this, politely said, "Dr. Johnson, I have the same custom which I perceive you have. But it seems odd that we should have such a desire to look at the backs of books". Johnson instantly started from his reverie, wheeled about and answered, "Sir, the reason is very plain. Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it. When we inquire into any subject, the first thing we have to do is to know what books have treated of it. This leads us to look at catalogues and the backs of books in libraries".

Boswell: Life of Johnson

Sarvavijnanakosham

A Comprehensive Malayalam Encyclopædia

K. M. George

Chief Editor,
Malayalam Encyclopaedia

Authoritative reference books in Malayalam have been a long-felt need. And the need became acute when the role of Malayalam as a medium for all kinds of enlightened communication came to be established. Taking this into consideration, the Government of Kerala set up in 1961 a new Department for the compilation of an Encyclopaedia in Malayalam. Soon Prof. N. Gopala Pillai, Retired Principal of the Sanskrit College, was appointed Chief Editor along with an editorial staff.

According to a scheme approved by the Government, the Encyclopaedia was planned in 10 volumes of 1000 pages each, covering a total number of 40,000 topics. It was soon realised that the staff was inadequate for such a stupendous project. However, some preliminary work was done, but Prof. Gopala Pillai died in June 1968.

The present writer took over as Chief Editor in July 1969 a year after his predecessor's death. He reorganised the set up and widened the scope of the project. According to the new scheme, the Malayalam Encyclopaedia which has the title 'SARVAVIJNANAKOSAM' will contain about 30,000 articles and will be published in 20 volumes of RA 4 size, each volume consisting of about 900 pages.

The Encyclopaedia is to be a valuable reference book on all aspects of knowledge. And for easy reference articles should appear in the alphabetical order. It should be a general Encyclopaedia addressed to the educated layman, and not a specialised one in its scope and treatment. In the selection of topics and allocation of space, due emphasis will be given to Indian subjects, highlighting the Kerala region wherever justifiable.

As the work could be satisfactorily processed only by a team of subject-specialists, ably assisted by Advisory Committees of experts, chosen for each field of knowledge, the vast area of knowledge was divided into over 40 major subjects. These subjects have been grouped into ten sections as follows for administrative convenience.

a. Astronomy, Mathematics, Physics; b. Agriculture, Botany, Zoology, Medicine (Anatomy & Physiology); c. Language and Literature; d Chemistry, Medicine, Health and Hygiene; e. History, Politics, Public Administration, f. Religion, Philosophy, Psychology and Education; g. Geography, Geology, Oceanography; h. Engineering, Architecture, Aeronautics, Communications; i. Economics, Sociology, Law, Industry, Communications, Commerce, Transport and Journalism; j. Art, Music, Sports and Athletics, Folk-lore, Photography, Printing, Publishing and other items.

Each section thus formed, consists of subjects which are more or less allied, and is in charge of an Assistant Editor who is a specialist in one subject having a fair acquaintance with the other subjects in that section. A few sub-editors and editorial assistants are there to assist the section editors. The Chief Editor directs and supervises the work of the Editorial personnel.

There are two important bodies functioning outside the Editorial Unit. The first of these, namely the Encyclopaedia Committee, is responsible for the editorial and administrative policy. The second body comprises several advisory committees constituted to advise and guide the editorial staff on academic matters. The advisory committees consist of about 180 eminent scholars and experts drawn from academic fields, the cream of Kerala's intelligentsia These specialists not only advise on the selection of topics for inclusion in the Encyclopaedia and competent contributors to write the articles, but they also contribute and review articles. The editors in the sections do the checking, editing and processing. The Chief Editor is, no doubt, the Chief Executive Officer and the co-ordinating authority as regards the editorial work and naturally the final editing is done by him.

A very important aspect of the work is the finalisation of topics to be included in the Encyclopaedia. This is done in three stages. In the first stage, the editorial staff attached to each section works out a preliminary list of topics coming under each subject. For this purpose, they consult all important Encyclopaedias and other valuable reference material available in English. This is satisfactory as far as topics of international significance are concerned. But while considering the topics of national and regional importance, the work is really difficult. They have to consult various and divergent sources as authentic and comprehensive reference material is not abundant. The topics thus collected are placed before the relevant advisory committees who carefully check them and suggest many additions and deletions. Thus from all the ten sections the proposed topics are pooled and arranged alphabetically. The number of topics selected preliminarliy comes to over 30,000 out of which on an average about 10,000 topics will be Indian.

The next stage of reviewing, checking and coordination is done internally by the editorial staff. Several meetings of the section editors are held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Editor at which the topics are throughly discussed and finalised. It is at such meetings that attempts are made to arrive at a uniform standard in the various sections. The space to be allocated for each topic is settled, duplication avoided and the manner in which two or three sections should co-operate to process major topics discussed and decided in detail. This is a long and exacting process, but one which is really fruitful. The details of topics that are finalised are printed in the form of booklets and sent to the Advisory Committee members and other experts for a final check up. The idea is that for a work of this dimension and goal, the door for improvement should be kept open till the last moment. The topics list have already been printed for the first two vowels and those for the remaining vowles in the press.

A scheme of visiting editors has been accepted as an experimental measure. According to the scheme, select writers on various subjects would be invited by the Chief Editor to spend a few days in the headquarters to write articles, on topics assigned to them in consultation with the Section Editors. They may utilise the facilities available in the Encyclopaedia Library and the other libraries in the city. They will be paid a daily allowance of Rs 25 for the days they spend in the headquarters. As provided for in the scheme, quite a few scholars were invited to advise and help the section editors in connection with the selection of topics and preparation and reviewing of articles.

As already pointed out, the editorial staff getting expert guidance and advice in the various aspects of the work like finalisation of topics, settling the length of articles and selection of competent contributers and reviewers. This ensures a satisfactory standard for the articles to be included in the encyclopaedia.

The Advisory Committees have met several times and helped to finalise the provisional lists of topics in each subject prepared by the editorial staff. About 30,000 topics have thus been finalised. As envisaged now, about threefourths of the total number of topics will have to be got written by outside experts, the remainder being prepared by the editorial staff. Articles contributed by outsiders will be paid for at the rate of Rs. 40 per 1,000 words. And assignments are being made to experts in various subjects. Sometimes articles are got written in English and translated into Malayalam.

The first volume of Sarvavijanakosam was released on February 10, 1973. The second volume is in the press and the work of the third volume is progressing. Copies are now available (Rs. 60 per copy) with the Language Institute, Nalanda, 'Trivandrum and the agents who sell the publications of the Institute. The first volume of the Encyclopaedia has been very well received by the press and the public. The reviews uphold the opinion that it is a significant addition to the literature of knowledge in Malayalam and most welcome at a time when the medium of instruction at the University level is being switched over to Malayalam. As regards the standard of production, the general acclaim is that it is definitely superior to encyclopaedias available in the various Indian languages and is a close approximation to Encyclopaedia Britannica.

The article cannot be closed better than by quoting a letter sent by our esteemed Prime Minister to the Chief Editor: "Thank you for sending mea copy of the first volume the of Malayalam Encyclopaedia. I cannot read the language but judging from the illustrations, you seem to have undertaken an ambitious task. The printing is also pleasing".

കേരളഭാഷാ ഇൻസ്റ്റിററ്യൂട്ട്

വിജ്ഞാന ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ

സർവ്വകലാശാലാ തലത്തിൽ ഉപയോഗിക്കാവുന്ന 250 മലയാള പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറാക്കിയതും ഭാഷേതര വിഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു് 700 ഗ്രന്ഥകാരന്മാരെ കണ്ടെത്തി രംഗത്തേയ്ക്കു് കൂട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുവന്നതും നിസ്സാരമായ നേട്ടങ്ങളല്ല. ഇൻസ്റ്റിററ്യൂട്ട് ചെയ്യുന്ന സേവനങ്ങളുടെ വില ശരിയ്ക്കും അറിയണമെങ്കിൽ കേരളത്തിലെ ഭരണമാധ്യമം മലയാളമാകണം

സി. കെ. മൂസ്സതു്

അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഡയറക്ടർ,
ഭാഷാഇൻസ്റ്റിററ്യൂട്ട്

ഭരണത്തിൻെറയും ബോധനത്തിൻെറയും മാധ്യമം പ്രാദേശികഭാഷയാവണമെന്നതു് ജനാധിപത്യത്തിലെ പ്രാഥമികപാഠമാണു്. 1961ൽ ബനാറസ് സർവ്വകലാശാലയുടെ ഉൽഘാടനയോഗത്തിൽ ഗാന്ധിജി ഇക്കാര്യം ഊന്നിപ്പറഞ്ഞു. കോൺഗ്രസ്സിനെ ഭാഷാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ അഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുകയുമുണ്ടായി. നമ്മുടെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യപ്രസ്ഥാനം ശക്തിപ്പെട്ടതു് ആ തത്വം അംഗീകരിച്ചതോടുകൂടിയുമാണു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയുടെ മാതൃഭാഷയിലാക്കുക എന്നതാവണം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ നയം എന്നു് 1937ൽ പണ്ഡിത്ജി അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കേരളപ്പിറവിയ്ക്കു് അടുത്തു് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ച "കേരളസംസ്ഥാനം—പ്രശ്നങ്ങളും സാധ്യതകളും" എന്ന ഗ്രന്ഥത്തിൽ ഉന്നത വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും സർക്കാർ എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകളും നാട്ടുഭാഷയിലാക്കേണ്ടതു് അടിയന്തിരക്കാര്യമായി സി. അച്യുതമേനോൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടതും ഈ ദേശീയ നയത്തിൻെറ ഭാഗമായിട്ടായിരുന്നു.

കോഠാരിക്കമ്മീഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടു് സ്വാഭാവികമായും ഈ അഭിപ്രായഗതിയെ ശരിവച്ചു. 1967 ഏപ്രിൽ മാസത്തിൽ ഡൽഹിയിൽചേർന്ന സംസ്ഥാന വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമന്ത്രിമാരുടെ പത്താം സമ്മേളനം എടുത്ത തീരുമാനം ഇതായിരുന്നു: സർവ്വകലാശാലാ തലമുരപ്പെടെ "എല്ലാ തലത്തിലും ബോധന മാധ്യമം പ്രാദേശികഭാഷയാവണം". ഈ ബോധന മാററത്തിനു് അഥവാ ദേശീയ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസനയത്തിൻെറ സാക്ഷാൽക്കാരത്തിനു്, ഉതകുമാറു് പ്രാദേശികഭാഷകളെ ശക്തവും സമ്പന്നവും ആക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടെയാണു് കേരളസർക്കാർ 1968ൽ കേരളഭാഷാ ഇൻസ്റ്റിററ്യൂട്ട്

സ്ഥാപിച്ചത്. കഴിഞ്ഞ അഞ്ചു വർഷത്തെ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് പ്രവർത്തനത്തെ ഈ ലേഖനത്തിൽ സംക്ഷിപ്തമായി അവലോകനം ചെയ്യാം.

സർവ്വകലാശാലാതലത്തിലേക്ക് പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുമാറ് നിലവാരപ്പെട്ട ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരു പദ്ധതി ആസൂത്രണം ചെയ്യുകയായിരുന്നു ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിന്റെ ആദ്യയത്നം. 1968 സെപ്തംബർ 16-ാം തീയതി ചുരുക്കം സ്റ്റാഫോടുകൂടിയാണ് പ്രവർത്തനം ആരംഭിച്ചതെങ്കിലും ഡിസംബർ 2-ാംതീയതിതന്നെ കേന്ദ്രസർക്കാരിലേക്കു സമർപ്പിക്കാനായി 740 ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിനുള്ള ബൃഹത് പദ്ധതി കേരളസർക്കാരിനെ ഏല്പിക്കാൻ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിനു് കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഈ ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾക്കു പുറമെ പതിനെട്ടു സാങ്കേതിക ശബ്ദാവലികളും നിർമ്മിക്കേണ്ടിയിരുന്നു. പദ്ധതിയുടെ അടങ്കൽ സംഖ്യ 10,964,800 രൂപയായിരുന്നു. ഈ പദ്ധതിക്കു് ഇന്ത്യാ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ അംഗീകാരം വേഗത്തിൽ ലഭ്യവുമായി. അംഗീകൃത ചെലവുസംഖ്യയുടെ 5 ശതമാനത്തിൽ കവിയാതെ നോക്കണം ഭരണച്ചെലവെന്നും, ഗ്രന്ഥകാരന്മാരെ തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതു് സർവ്വകലാശാലാ അദ്ധ്യാപകരിൽനിന്നോ പ്രസിദ്ധ പണ്ഡിതന്മാരിൽനിന്നോ ആയിരിക്കണമെന്നും മാത്രമായിരുന്നു മുഖ്യ ഉപാധികൾ. ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളിലെ സാങ്കേതികപദങ്ങൾ കേന്ദ്രവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മന്ത്രികാര്യാലയത്തിന്റെ ശബ്ദാവലിക്കമ്മീഷൻ തയ്യാറാക്കിയ ശബ്ദങ്ങളെ മാതൃകയാക്കി പാകപ്പെടുത്താവുന്നതാണെന്നും നിർദ്ദേശമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. തർജ്ജമയ്ക്കെടുക്കുന്ന ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ പകർപ്പവകാശം സംബന്ധിച്ച ആലോചനകൾ കേന്ദ്രസർക്കാർ തലത്തിൽ വേണം.

ശബ്ദാവലികൾ

പദ്ധതിപ്രവർത്തനത്തിനു വേണ്ട റിസർച്ച് ആഫീസർമാരെ നിയമിക്കാൻ ആ ഫെബ്രുവരിയിൽത്തന്നെ നടപടി ആരംഭിച്ചു. ഫലമോ? 1969 മെയ് 19-ാം തീയതി വിജ്ഞാനശബ്ദാവലി, മാനവികശബ്ദാവലി എന്നീ രണ്ടു അടിസ്ഥാന ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ പ്രകാശനം സാധ്യമായി. വൈജ്ഞാനിക ഗ്രന്ഥരചനയുടെ ഒരു കളരി എന്ന നിലയിൽക്കൂടി പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുമാറ് വിജ്ഞാനകൈരളി മാസിക 1969 ജൂൺമുതൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ചുതുടങ്ങി. സാങ്കേതിക പദാവലികൾ നിർമ്മിക്കുന്നതിൽ ദീക്ഷിക്കേണ്ട സാമാന്യതത്വങ്ങൾ, ശാസ്ത്രവിഷയങ്ങളുടെ ആവിഷ്കരണരീതികൾ എന്നിങ്ങനെ പൊതുവിഷയങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി വ്യാപകമായും പ്രത്യേകവിഷയങ്ങളെ കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് വേറേയും ആയി ഒൻപതു സെമിനാറുകളും ഒരു വർഷത്തിനിടയ്ക്കു നടത്താൻ കഴിഞ്ഞു. 1969 ഏപ്രിൽ 13-ാം തീയതി മാത്രമാണ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിന്റെ ഭരണരൂപം പൂർത്തിയായതെങ്കിലും പ്രവർത്തനം ഊർജ്ജസ്വലമായി കുതിച്ചുമുന്നേറി. സെമിനാറുകളുടെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ പദ്ധതിപുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം 771 ആക്കി പുതുക്കുകയുണ്ടായെങ്കിലും മൊത്തം ചെലവ് 1,09,62,660 രൂപയിൽ ഒതുക്കാൻ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു.

ഇരുപത്തൊന്നു സെമിനാറുകൾ

രണ്ടാം വർഷത്തെ (1969-70) പ്രധാന സംഭവം ഇരുപത്തൊന്നു ശാസ്ത്രാദ്ധ്യാപന സെമിനാറുകൾ നടത്തിയതാണ്. ചില സെമിനാറുകൾ ശാസ്ത്രസാഹിത്യ പരിഷത്തുമായി സഹകരിച്ചു നടത്തിയവയാണ്, ഗ്രന്ഥകാരന്മാരെ നേരിട്ട് കാണാനും പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ ചർച്ച ചെയ്യാനും പ്രയോജനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു വേദിയായിരുന്നു ആ സെമിനാർ പരിപാടി. മുന്നൂറ്റിപ്പതിമൂന്ന് ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളെഴുതുന്നതിന് ഏർപ്പാടുണ്ടാക്കിയെങ്കിലും നടപ്പുവർഷത്തിൽ ഇരുപതു കയ്യെഴുത്തു പ്രതികൾ മാത്രമാണ് പൂർണ്ണരൂപത്തിൽ കിട്ടിയതു്. ഇവയിൽ മൂന്നെണ്ണത്തിന്റെ മുദ്രണം പൂർത്തിയാക്കാനും എട്ടെണ്ണം അച്ചടിയുടെ വിവിധ ഘട്ടത്തിലാക്കാനും സാധിച്ചു. മാനുസ്ക്രിപ്റ്റുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കാനും നിലവാരപ്പെടുത്താനും ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുന്ന 1,805 ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങി ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ലൈബ്രറിക്കു് ഒരു തുടക്കമിടാനും അക്കൊല്ലം സാധ്യമായി. കൂടുതൽ സൗകര്യമുള്ള നന്തൻകോട്ടെ നാളന്ദായിലേക്ക് ആഫീസ് മാറ്റിയതും 1969ൽ തന്നെ. ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കുന്ന ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ മൂല്യനിർണ്ണയത്തിനും നിലവാരസംരക്ഷണത്തിനുംവേണ്ടി സർവ്വകലാശാലകളിലെ ബോർഡ് ഓഫ് സ്റ്റഡീസ് അംഗങ്ങളെ പരിശോധകരായി അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നും തക്കതായ നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു.

ഭാരതീയ ഭാഷാ വിദ്യാലയം

മൂന്നാം വർഷത്തിൽ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിന്റെ മൗലിക ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങളിൽ മറ്റൊന്നിലേക്ക് കൈനീട്ടാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഭാരതീയ ഭാഷാവിദ്യാലയത്തിന്റെ സമാരംഭമാണ് ഇവിടെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചതു്. സ്റ്റേറ്റിന്റെ തമിഴ്—കർണ്ണാടക ഭാഗങ്ങളുമായി കൂടുതൽ സാംസ്കാരിക ബന്ധമുണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഈ നീക്കം ഉപകരിച്ചു. 1971 മാർച്ചുവരേക്കും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കപ്പെട്ട ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം മുമ്പത്തെ മൂന്നിൽനിന്ന് മുപ്പത്തൊമ്പതിലേയ്ക്കു് ഉയർന്നു കിട്ടി. ശബ്ദാവലികളെല്ലാം പൂർത്തിയാക്കപ്പെട്ടു. പതിനാറ് അദ്ധ്യാപക പരിശീലനസെമിനാറുകൾ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതും ശ്രദ്ധേയംതന്നെ. സർവ്വകലാശാലകളുമായി നേരിട്ട് കൂട്ടുചേർന്നു അദ്ധ്യാപക പരിശീലനസെമിനാറുകൾ ആസൂത്രിതമുറയിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതും ഇക്കാലത്തത്രെ. സമുദ്രവിജ്ഞാനം, സി. വി. രാമൻ സ്മരണിക എന്നിങ്ങിനെ രണ്ടു പ്രത്യേക പതിപ്പുകൾ വിജ്ഞാനകൈരളി പുറത്തിറക്കി. സാങ്കേതിക ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ അച്ചടിയിലുള്ള വൈഷമ്യങ്ങൾ തികച്ചും ബോധ്യപ്പെട്ടതും ഇക്കാലത്താണ്.

നാടകീയ പ്രവർത്തനം

1971-72ലെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനു് കൂടുതൽ നാടകീയത ലഭിച്ചു. വിതച്ച കണ്ടത്തിൽ കതിരു് നിരന്നുകാണാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ കർഷകന്റെ ഉത്സാഹം അപ്പോൾ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് പ്രവർത്തകരിൽ ഓളം തല്ലി. തർജ്ജമയുടെ രംഗത്തുണ്ടായ മുന്നേറ്റം മറ്റൊരു സവിശേഷതയാണ്. വിദേശ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണ ഏജൻസികളിൽനിന്ന് പകർപ്പവകാശം നേടുന്നതിനു് സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടായി. അപ്പോൾ മൂലകൃതികൾ 807ഉം തർജ്ജമ 471ഉം ചേർന്നു് ഒട്ടാകെ പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം തയ്യാറാക്കേണ്ട ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം 1278 ആയി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയുംചെയ്തു. 1972 ഒക്ടോബർ 15 വരെ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ച ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം നൂറ്റിഇരുപത്തഞ്ചു് ആക്കാൻ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിനു തരപ്പെട്ടു. നാലു് സെമിനാറുകൾ കേരള സർവ്വകലാശാലയുമായി സഹകരിച്ചുനടത്തി. പോളിടെക്നിക്കുകൾ, ജൂനിയർ ടെക്നിക്കൽസ്ക്കൂളുകൾ എന്നിവയ്ക്കുവേണ്ട ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ ഏറെക്കുറെ പൂർണ്ണമായി ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് നിർമ്മിച്ചുതുടങ്ങി. പക്ഷേ വൈജ്ഞാനികശാഖയിലെ മാനുസ്ക്രിപ്റ്റുകൾ കെട്ടിക്കിടക്കുകയല്ലാതെ മുദ്രണം ചെയ്തെടുക്കാൻ അധികം വൈഷമ്യങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങി. വിജ്ഞാനമുദ്രണം പ്രസ്സ് എന്ന സംരംഭം ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് വളപ്പിൽ തുടങ്ങാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചതു് ഈ പ്രശ്നത്തിന്റെ പരിഹാരത്തിനുള്ള ആദ്യ നടപടിയായിരുന്നു. 1972 മാർച്ചുവരെയുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ട് വിജ്ഞാനമുദ്രണം പ്രസ്സിൽ അച്ചടിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചു.

സ്വന്തമായി പ്രസ്സ്

1972 മെയ് 2-ാം തീയതി വിജ്ഞാനമുദ്രണം പ്രസ്സിന്റെ ചക്രങ്ങൾ ചലിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങിയതോടുകൂടി ഗ്രന്ഥപ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിനു് ഒരുത്തേജനം ലഭിച്ചെന്നു പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. ശാസ്ത്രഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ അടിക്കാൻവേണ്ട ഗ്രീക്ക് അക്ഷരങ്ങളും ഗണിതചിഹ്നങ്ങളും വാങ്ങി മറ്റു പ്രസ്സുകാർക്കു് വിതരണം ചെയ്യാനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടും സമാന്തരമായി ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. 1972 സെപ്തംബർ മാസത്തിൽ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിന്റെ നൂറ്റിപ്പതിനൊന്നാമത്തെ ഗ്രന്ഥത്തിന്റെ പ്രകാശനം പ്രധാനമന്ത്രി ഇന്ദിരാഗാന്ധിയുടെ കൈകൾകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ സാധ്യമായി.

തൊഴിൽദാനം

സെമിനാറുകളിലെല്ലാം മുഴങ്ങിക്കേട്ട മറ്റൊരു കാര്യമുണ്ട് —അദ്ധ്യേതാക്കളുടെ തൊഴിൽരാഹിത്യപ്രശ്നം. ബോധനം മാതൃഭാഷയിലായാൽ ഈ പ്രശ്നം രൂക്ഷതരമാകുമെന്നും ആശങ്കയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതേ സമയം ആധുനിക ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ മലയാളത്തിലാക്കാൻ കഴിവുള്ളവരുടെ കുറവ് മറ്റൊരു രൂക്ഷപ്രശ്നമാണുതാനും. ഈ വൈരുദ്ധ്യത്തിന് ഒരു പരിഹാരമാകാനാണ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ഒരു പ്രത്യേക തൊഴിൽദാനപദ്ധതി ആസൂത്രണംചെയ്തതു്. 27-1-73ന് ശ്രീ പി. ടി. ഭാസ്കരപ്പണിക്കർ ഈ പദ്ധതിയുടെ ചുമതല വഹിക്കുന്ന എഡിറ്ററായി ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിൽ ചേർന്നു. 1973 മാർച്ച് 1-ാംതിയതി ഒന്നാമത്തെ ബാച്ചിലേക്ക് പോസ്റ്റ് ഗ്രാഡ്വേറ്റ് ബിരുദധാരികളായ അമ്പതുപേരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു. കാലത്തു് സൈദ്ധാന്തികബോധനം, ഉച്ചയ്ക്കുശേഷം പ്രായോഗിക വിവർത്തനം—ഇതായിരുന്നു മൂന്നുമാസത്തെ വിവർത്തന പരിശീലനകോഴ്സിന്റെ പ്രധാന വശം. രണ്ടു ബാച്ചുകൾ—100 പേർ—ഇങ്ങിനെ പരിശീലനം കഴിഞ്ഞിറങ്ങി.

ഇരുന്നൂറ്റിരുപത്തഞ്ചു പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ പൂർത്തിയാക്കുന്ന ഘട്ടമായിട്ടാണ് 1973ലെ വാർഷികം ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് നടത്തിയതു്.

തിരിഞ്ഞുനോക്കുമ്പോൾ

അഞ്ചുവർഷത്തെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലേക്ക് ഒന്നുതിരിഞ്ഞുനോക്കുമ്പോൾ, നേട്ടങ്ങളുടെയും ചില കോട്ടങ്ങളുടെയും സംശയങ്ങൾ കണ്ണിൽപ്പെടാതെ വയ്യ. സർവ്വകലാശാലാതലത്തിൽ ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന ഇരുന്നൂററമ്പതു പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ മലയാളത്തിൽ തയ്യാറാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതു് തീർച്ചയായും അഭിമാനകരമാണ്, ഭാഷയുടെ വളർച്ചയിൽ പുതിയൊരനുഭവവുമാണ്. പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് ഭാഷേതരാദ്ധ്യാപക വിഭാഗത്തിൽനിന്ന് ഏഴുന്നൂറ് ഗ്രന്ഥകാരന്മാരെ രംഗത്തവതരിപ്പിച്ചതും സാങ്കേതിക ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ മലയാളത്തിലുമാകാമെന്ന് സമ്മതിപ്പിച്ചതും ചെറിയ നേട്ടങ്ങളല്ല ഒരു മാതൃകാവിജ്ഞാന മുദ്രണ സംവിധാനം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതും ചുറ്റുവട്ടമുള്ള നാല്പതിൽ അധികം കൊച്ചുപ്രസ്സുകളെക്കൊണ്ട് മേൽത്തരം അച്ചടി നടത്തിയതും ഇത്തരുണത്തിൽ സ്മരിച്ചുപോകയാണ്. ബിരുദാനന്തര ബിരുദക്കാരായി 100 പേർക്ക് മാന്യമായി ജോലിചെയ്യാൻ അവസരവും ശേഷിയും കുറച്ചു കാലത്തേയ്ക്കെങ്കിലും നൽകാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞല്ലോ. നാലു വർഷക്കാലം വിജ്ഞാനകൈരളിയെന്ന ധൈഷണിക മാസിക മുടക്കം കൂടാതെ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. പ്രീഡിഗ്രിതലത്തിലേക്ക് വേണ്ട ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ മുഴുവൻ അച്ചടിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഈ വർഷം വേണമെങ്കിൽ മലയാളത്തിലും ഉത്തരമെഴുതാമെന്ന് കേരളസർവകലാശാലയെക്കൊണ്ടു സമ്മതിപ്പിച്ചതും നിസ്സാര നേട്ടമായി തള്ളിക്കൂടാ.

ഈ പ്രവർത്തനം അതിന്റെ ശരിയായ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ അനുഭവപ്പെടണമെങ്കിൽ, ഭരണതലത്തു് മാതൃഭാഷ പ്രയോഗിച്ചു തുടങ്ങണം അതു് സുപ്രധാന കാര്യമായി അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ലക്ഷണം കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. "ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കാര്യങ്ങൾക്ക് മലയാളഭാഷ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു ഭാഷയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു മാത്രമല്ല ഉതകുന്നതെന്നും ജനങ്ങളുടെ സൗകര്യത്തിനും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനും പരിഷ്കാരത്തിനും ഇതിലധികം പ്രയോജനകരമായ ഒരേർപ്പാടാവാൻ പ്രയാസം" എന്നു് 1084 ലെ ഭാഷാപോഷിണി മാസികയുടെ ലക്കം മുതൽ പറയാൻ തുടങ്ങിയതാണ്. സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെയും ഭാഷാപോഷണ സംരംഭങ്ങളുടേയും ഭാഗമായി വളർന്ന ജനാധിപത്യത്തിന്റെ പ്രാഥമികതത്വം പ്രാവർത്തികമാക്കുന്നതിന്റെ അനുസന്താനപ്രവർത്തനം അഞ്ചാം പദ്ധതിക്കാലത്തു് കയ്യൊഴിക്കാൻ വയ്യ.

ഈ സാമ്പത്തിക വർഷത്തിന്റെ അവസാനമാകുമ്പോഴേക്ക് മുന്നൂറു ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കും. നൂറിലേറെ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ പല പ്രസ്സുകളിലുമായി അച്ചടിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണ്. ഇരുന്നൂറിലധികം കൈയെഴുത്തു പ്രതികൾ എഡിറ്റ് ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്നു എണ്ണൂറിലേറെ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ രചനയുടെ പല ഘട്ടങ്ങളിൽ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നു.

അടുത്ത അഞ്ചുവർഷത്തിനുള്ളിൽ മലയാളത്തിൽ എല്ലാ ആധുനിക വിഷയങ്ങളിലുമായി ആയിരത്തോളം ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ പുറത്തിറക്കാനും, അങ്ങിനെ ഉന്നത വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെയും ഉൽബുദ്ധമായ വായനയുടെയും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നിറവേററാനും ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിനു കഴിയും. ആവശ്യമായ സാമ്പത്തിക സഹായം കേന്ദ്രഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്ന് ലഭിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ നാലാം പഞ്ചവത്സര പദ്ധതിക്കാലത്തു് പ്രദേശിയ ഭാഷകളിൽ ഗ്രന്ഥനിർമ്മാണത്തിന് ഉദാരമായി സഹായം നൽകിയ കേന്ദ്ര ഗവണ്മെണ്ട് അഞ്ചാം പഞ്ചവത്സരപദ്ധതിക്കാലത്തു് ഈ സഹായഹസ്തം പിൻവലിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ കാര്യം പുനരാലോചിയ്ക്കപ്പെടുമെന്നും, ഈ നിർമ്മാണാത്മക പ്രവർത്തനത്തിന് വർദ്ധമാനമായ തോതിൽ കേന്ദ്ര സഹായം തുടർന്നു ലഭിയ്ക്കുമെന്നും ആശിക്കുന്നു.



A KALEIDOSCOPE OF TOPICS

IN
MANY
HUES

Writing is a form of release that many people are denied, you know? I have met many people who were not writers who had the sensibility of writers, and I've felt that they were easier to be with. I don't think of writers as being easy to be with, because they are under continual tension. I think that to become a writer one has to compensate for something in one's nature, compensate for it or purify it, however you want to put it. I usually find it happiest to live with creative people—whether they be actors or poets or just people who have a great gift for life. That in itself is a creative thing.

Tennessee Williams,
one of the greatest playwrights in English

Poems are just local, special, and sometimes awkward and unsuccessful exercises in ingenuity. But poetry is the breath of life for human beings . . . One of the excitements today in poetry, as I hear it talked about by people I meet, is the scramble to join hands around the world, and somehow reach out into other literatures and other patterns of life.

William Stafford
American Poet

Where the mind is without fear
And the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where mind is led forward by thee into
Ever widening thought and action—
into that heaven of freedom, my father
Let my country awake

Tagore

Goodness must be joined with knowledge. One must retain the fine discriminating quality which goes with spiritual courage and character.

Mahatma Gandhi

Browsing without Let or Hindrance

In Some Famous Bookshops

BLACKWELLS AND FOYLES HAVE BEEN VITAL CENTRES IN THE COMMERCE OF IDEAS

Krishnamoorthy

Those of us who have loved books retain happy memories of bookshops where we have browsed. The relation between the bookseller and his customer is something different from that between the ordinary merchandiser and his buyer. The parties in the former share like intellectual attitudes. The bookseller gets much more out of his wares than money, including the esteem and goodwill of intellectuals.

Of the bookshops I have known, undoubtedly the most celebrated is Blackwells of Oxford. I am now talking of pre-War days, before Blackwells rebuilt their shop adjoining the New Bodleian Library on Broad Street. In those days we found endless fascination in the old well-worn structure where vast treasures were spread on tables on the ground floor, while the upper floors housed more recondite literature as well as rare and antiquarian works.

It used to be said that anyone could browse inside Blackwells for any length of time without let or hindrance. In fact, legends are told of heroic but indigent readers who managed to finish whole books standing! Of course, the rule was that browsers could not sit down. Nor in fact was there any place to sit. I have seen many people standing and turning over books with never any objection or disturbance. As far as undergraduates like us were concerned, the ease of opening an account with that famous bookshop was itself a kind of passport to the magic world of books. I remember opening an account with Blackwells in my time, which I continued to use for several years even after return to India and during the War years when good books were so hard to get and precious when received. Blackwells always had a huge stock of new and older books, catering to an immense variety of tastes and interests. To this day they continue the same tradition and have thousands of accounts scattered over the world. The founder of Blackwells was knighted in recognition of his status in the book trade and his son continues to be an active figure in the trade in Britain.

There were many other bookshops in Oxford, including Parkers in Broad Street, just across the road. There were other smaller shops in the Turl on the High Street and, of course, the ubiquitous W. H. Smith in Cornmarket Street, not to mention several second-hand bookshops. All of them did a thriving business, as is to be expected of one of the great centres of world scholarship. It is doubtful, though, if any of them were kinder to uudergraduates than Blackwells, the doyen of them all.

VERITABLE BOOK QUEEN

Another bookshop famed the world over is situated in London. I refer to Foyles, which is more than half a century old and occupies a prominent position in

Charing Cross Road, a location the freehold of which should be worth more than the million or more books boasted by Foyles. The present head of this firm is Christina Foyle, who is a celebrity in her own right, sometimes referred to as " Queen " Christina ! She is a veritable book queen with a bigger stock of books than almost any other bookshop in the world.

The very size of Foyles makes it a tempting haven for book pilferers. Not a month passes without some book thief being caught in *flagrante delicto* and brought to court for pilferage of valuable books. Foyles has also at times been the target for militant trade union attack, because it is said that they tend to pay their juniormost sales clerks no more than the minimum. Whatever the truth of this, there never is any lack of staff at Foyles and the shop is traditionally a refuge for many foreign scholars and students in need of employment.

Christina Foyle, the institution, is responsible for a well-known book trade institution, the Foyle's Literary Luncheon, which has now been going on for a quarter century. Every month a literary personage is invited to address a luncheon group on some topic of booksy nature. The audience is mainly feminine and over the years it is not to be wondered at if the luncheons have attracted the loyalty of their following. They do provide useful publicity for authors and books and occasionally also spark off newsworthy controversies which get into the papers.

Apart from bookselling, Foyles also operate a few book clubs.

Before concluding this brief article, I should perhaps make a reference to one of the most curious bookshops in recent history, although let me say at once that I have no first hand acquaintance with it. It is the Paris bookshop, Shakespeare and Company, set up in its later years by an expatriate American, Sylvia Beach. This shop was frequented by many famous writers in the inter-War period, the most celebrated of them being that extraordinary figure, James Joyce. Gertrude Stein and the youthful Hemingway are also associated with this shop and the literary circle around it.

Naturally the shop never made much money and it changed hands more than once in its history. I am not sure if it still exists, but it is sure to find a place in the literary history of the 20th Century.

I end this sketoh where I began, with a salute to the good bookshops of the world, which are vital centres in the priceless commerce of ideas. May their power never wane !

The author Sri Krishnamoorthy is himself a book-seller in Madras

Educational Publishing Is Specialist

Editing University Textbooks

THE EDITOR SHOULD GENERATE A CONSTANT STREAM OF IDEAS

R. Parthasarathy
Regional Editor,
Oxford University Press, Madras

Publishing is a business in which books or other printed matter are issued and offered for sale to the public. There are two categories in publishing: general (trade in the USA) and educational. General publishing includes, among other things, fiction, biographies, sports and pastimes, religion and children's books. It is non-specialist. Educational publishing is, on the other hand, specialist. Its concern is almost exclusively with textbooks for the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Most publishers will have both categories of books on their lists. University presses are basically educational publishers. A few commercial publishers also, however, fall in this category. A large percentage of their turnover is accounted for by textbooks.

Textbook publishing, irrespective of the level, is highly specialised, since it caters to specific educational needs. In fact, textbook publishing grew out of the publishers' response to educational needs. And these needs will largely determine the extent and type of that publishing.

THE CIRCULATING EDITOR

In a book-publishing house, the responsibility for procuring manuscripts for publication and preparing them for press is that of the editor. If he is to do this effectively, he must circulate. Ideas for books don't come to the editor when sitting at his desk. Ideas come when he is chatting with a teacher or a Ministry of Education official. The editor must, therefore, frequently keep in touch with 'key' people, that is, teachers, educators, Board of Study members, Ministry of Education officials and potential authors. Often it is the experienced teacher, a specialist in his own field, who will advise the editor on the kind of textbooks required for a particular course of study. Usually, he could be persuaded to write the textbook himself.

It is essential that the editor knows local syllabuses, and tries to find out possibilities of changes in syllabuses (changes in syllabuses can lead to dead stock and heavy financial losses). It is, therefore, useful for the editor to keep a file of press-cuttings on any proposed changes in the educational system. However, in an ideal world, the editor seeks to influence the syllabus, not just commission books to be written to someone else's syllabus. The editor is thus educationally responsible for generating a constant stream of ideas for books.

Educational books are generally commissioned. Otherwise, it is most unlikely that the publisher will

get manuscripts. Commissioning means accepting for publication before seeing a final manuscript. A manuscript may be commissioned on a synopsis, a specimen chapter or on an author's reputation.

There are four distinct editorial processes involved after a manuscript has been accepted for publication:

Editing for content ;
Editing for presentation of content ;
Editing for language of presentation ;
Co-ordination with production ;

The editor may find it useful to ask questions on the following lines :

i) EDITING FOR CONTENT

Are the facts correct? Does the manuscript contain more or less what the syllabus requires? If more, is it wise/unwise to take material out and, if wise, what material? If less, what material should be added? Has the author supplied too few/too many suggestions for line drawings, photographs, charts, diagrams, etc.? If too few, what additions are needed? If too many, what can be sacrificed ?

ii) EDITING FOR PRESENTATION OF CONTENT

Does the author present his material efficiently? Will the student find his material easy to understand? If not, how can it be improved upon? Can more use be made of visual aids ? If so, how ? And how can they be best integrated with the test ? Are there sufficient guides for the student—cross-headings, chapter summaries, tests, reading lists? If not, what should be added? Will the teacher find it an easy book to teach? If not, how can his job be made easier ?

iii) LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION

Is the book written at the average reading level of the student who will be using it? Will he find only familiar words and sentence patterns? If not, to what level must it be edited? Can the editor take responsibility for this ? Or, should it be edited more scientifically by an expert ? How should uncommon words be treated? By glossing in the text? In a footnote ?

iv) CO-ORDINATION WITH PRODUCTION

The editor speaks to Production : "Here is a manuscript. It is written for the B. Ed. course, for example. It should be published by June 1975. We think the following need emphasis : diagrams/charts/maps, etc., and that the illustrations should be part of/separated from the text. We cannot afford to publish at more than Rs. X per book. Our printing number will be in the region of Y. Here are some of the competing books in the market. Your suggestions, please."

PAGES

Always check that the pages of the manuscript are numbered. If they are not numbered, page them from 1 from the beginning of the text and page the prelims i, ii, etc.

CHAPTERS

Check the chapters against the contents list.

HEADINGS

Organise into

(*i*) *Centre headings*, in capitals, for main sections.

(*ii*) *Side headings*, for sub-sections, typed on a separate line at the left-hand margin, with a wavy underline to denote bold type.

(*iii*) *Shoulder headings* for sub-sub-sections, typed at the beginning of a paragraph and followed by a full stop, with a straight underline to denote italics. Be consistent, and ensure that the wording of your headings is properly descriptive of what follows.

TEXT

This should be read for (*i*) factual errors, (*ii*) typing errors and (*iii*) consistency.

(*i*) *Factual errors*: If it sounds wrong, check it. The reader's report shoul have pointed out errors of fact. In the case of technical books, it is worth asking an expert to check the script solely for factual errors.

(*ii*) *Typing errors*: Read the script as though it were a final proof.

(*iii*) *Consistency* : To ensure consistency in the style used in a particular script, it is advisable to use a style sheet. In this sheet unusual words should be alphabetically entered, the style adopted and the first time the entry occurs in the script. Check the style sheet each time the word occurs.

CORRECTIONS TO SCRIPT

Always correct a script, where possible, over the word or phrase being corrected, not in the margin. If a page has to be edited severely, have it retyped. Many manuscripts come to us obviously needing re-print. It is best to edit these manuscripts first and then have the whole manuscript retyped. Check the manuscript for any further mistakes after retyping.

RE-WRITING

Authors generally tend not to complain about editorial re-writing. It is always advisable to let the author see a re-typed version of his manuscript after editing and re-typing so that he can spot if his meaning has been changed. As a rule, it is wise to re-write one chapter and send it to the author explaining this is what you intend to do and ask for his approval of the method adopted. In the matter of facts, it is advisable

to write to the author pointing out that on reading the manuscriapt the editor has discovered what he believes are the following errors of fact. Could the author eonfirm they are errors?

Footnotes

The editor should always check footnote reference numbers in the text against the footnotes themselves.

Bibliographies

These should be checked for consistency.

Tables

If the author has typed his tables on pages with his text, the editor should cut them out and paste them on separate pages, making sure that he puts the text page number on the new page containing the table and the number of the table in the margin of the text page.

Illustrations and Legends

When an author fails to identify his illustrations or to type legends on seperate sheets, the editor must do so for him. It is helpful to ask authors to submit references with their illustrations for the artist to consult. Usually the editor tells Production what size he thinks illustrations should be—from full page or ⅛ page (for demy octavo), from full page or ⅛ page, one or two columns, for crown quarto, Maps and diagrams are best drawn 1 or 2 up. Legends should be written to explain the illustration and add something to the text. The editor must check all pasted illustrations.

Manuscripts to production

When the manuscript is finally ready, the editor sends it to production with a covering form which gives all details for estimating. Production will then ask for quotations from printers with a request for a specimen page according to Production's specifications. Unfortunately specimen pages tend to be a luxury of leisurely publishing and with textbooks there is seldom time to see one. The editor and Production will accept the most favourable quotation, based on Production's costing.

Types of proofs

The form accompanying a script of Production asks the editor or state how many proofs are required at what stage. Possible proofs are: galley (and revised galleys), page (and revised pages), bromide (and corrected bromides), often called blueprints. The quantity of proofs depends on

(a) editorial needs—one marked set for returning to printer, one reference set (also marked)

(b) author's needs—ideally one for reading and returning to the editor, one for reference.

(c) sales and publicity—proofs may help a publicity campaign, especially if they are bound properly.

i) *Galley Proofs* consist of matter set but not broken up into page length. Galleys are useful because matter can be inserted and deleted without difficulty; a paste-up is always done from galleys; and galleys can be used to juggle the length of a book.

ii) *Page on Galley:* The galleys have been broken into pages, but each page has not been put on a separate proof stage. If a manuscript is clean and there are no complicated illustration, then the printer may go straight into page on galley.

iii) *Page proof:* Corrections at this stage are costly—if matter is inserted or deleted, matter of an equivalent length should be inserted or deleted as appropriate. Books are usually passed for press from page proofs.
iv) *Machine proofs:* If we are very particular, we ask the printer to provide machine proofs. These are proof printed exactly as the book will be printed on the correct paper and correctly folded. This should only be demanded if the book is complicated.

(e) *Bromides* (blueprints): These are the equivalents of page proofs in the offset process. They are made from imposed film with all matter incorporated. If in doubt with an offset book, it is best to check the film in the printer's factory.

Proof reading

Proofs are read for the following reasons:

(i) to check that the printer has printed all the copy provided, neither adding nor subtracting matter;

(ii) to check that there are no mis-spellings;

(iii) to check that there are no "literals" (that is, wrong founts, upside down letters, etc.);

(iv) for sense. The manuscript may have been read carefully, but the reader of it may have missed something;

(v) to insert at page-proof stage the correct page references in the body of the text;

(vi) to author will also read to see whether passages should be deleted or other passages added. This should be discouraged though it cannot be altogether prevented;

(vii) to insert references to illustrations and figures;

(viii) to check pagination, headlines, positioning of illustrations and to insert correct page references in the list of contents and illustrations;

(ix) to check that all imprints—publisher's on the title page and verso, printer's on verso—copyright notice, date of publication on verso, etc., are correct.

Proofs should be read carefully and thoroughly, preferably once for sense and once for errors. Corrections should be made clearly in ink, and all pencil marks should be rubbed out before proofs are returned to the printer. Proof reading queries should be noted in pencil and settled with the author. Instructions to the printer, if written on the proofs, should be courteously worded and put in a circle with the heading.

Printer

Finally, check the title page of the book against the jacket.

An Indo-English Poetry Reading

Young Poets Groping in Lonely Directions

REPEATED READINGS RELEASE THEIR MUSK-LIKE ODOUR TO THE FULL

Keshav Malik
Writer and Art Critic

Poetry Reading. Venue : Delhi University
Time : Beginning of December

Participants : Students and teachers from several Delhi College, and also some guests.

It's a dreadful thought that the picture of the moment already begins to fade from my mind. Many of the names are gone, most of the lines forgotten. I don't take notes. So what precisely can I report ?—nothing specific.

Poetry, it has been well said, is a thing of no use. Far less use, let us say, than a piece of sculpture is. A sculpture is a tangible object that can be seen and felt. It has mass, weight, density and certainly seems more real. Again, unlike music poetry is not even pure sound, one that you can record and place on your shelf, and which caters to you directly without the conscious intervention of your thought. Being a cross-breed between the visual and the aural, and riding the banal functional word in the, often, vain hope of making it to the spirituous condition, it remains uncertain of its identity, falling between opposing worlds of experience. You cannot really take it away home.

It is thus I recollect nothing concrete except the lingering sensation of a tingle in my bone.

This was not an occasion memorable because of famous names. That kind of excitement was entirely lacking. What's more, to some it may have appeared as a guilty secret activity—the speakeasy of Indian poetry in English by versifying black sheep. But the far greater guilt may have peeped out from the feeling that to participate in poetry reading at the given juncture, the agonies of shortages was to be singularly out of touch with real life. But then those who presume to persist in such puruits have evolved a set of self defences. And I should think aberrations be allowed to exist under a democratic dispensation.

DIP IN GANGES

Then too, there is that trying paradox, that good poetry must be read aloud before an anonymous audience to be tested of its virtues, quite like a coin struck on stone pavement for its genuineness ; only repeated private readings of lines can release their hypothetical, musk-like odour to the full. At least this is true of all efficiently organised (horrible phrase) verse. It is for this verse readings are only quick virtue earning dips in the Holy Ganges of the river of poetry in midwinter, except in the oratorical-rhetorical boom of the voice of a late Dylan Thomas.

When you listen to singer Bade Ghulam Ali Khan the sounds go round and round right into your very

marrow and perhaps the eyes cloud. The sound takes root in your visceral system. When you view mature graphic art or the splendour of the palaces of Bikaner, the mind's reactors begin to vibrate without assistance. But poems, poems in English, their wings clipped by the strict scalpel of sharp new criticism, wanders about, often, like an un-airborneable fowl. And yet, we compose, and recite ; because, to people of a particular amalgam of humours, it answers to the description of the would-be soul. The given soul informed of part solid and part the liquid heart. Both overt meaning and the sublime nonsense that music is, are the ingredients in it to equal measure. In the would-be poet, we have some with the being of an amphibian ; as swimmer in the sea of sound or light and also one who struggles up the hard dry land of prose, of plain commonsense. Sticking to one element alone to the exclusion of the other destroys the authenticity of many a contender in the field.

WATERS FROM PUDDLES

As I lent my ears to fresh blood, I was not unelated ; indeed I felt a trace of envy. Sweet innocence is evaporating from the cultural landscape, like waters from the puddles on plains in midsummer. Here was plenty of it but no clumsiness of naivete. None at all, such as there was in the imitative verse penned in school years ago, in unconscious homage to poets centuries dead. In the lines of Nina Singh :

The Sun soaks into your skin
you move.
Try carrying a sick body walking
upright through the streets. Each
cell decaying
falls husk-like downwards through
the body stream.
Then each fills with sunshine and
floats up alive.
So I walk with shining traffic
in my blood.

Or in those of Gurdeep singh :

Dawn and dusk
Lizards, like neon lights,
crawl through the mist
of dreams. Strangely the birds hover......

These poets write from own experience, in their voyages of self discovery. And the selves expressed are in tolerable control of themselves. They do not inflate their voices but are, rather, like friends delivering secrets to friends. The tone is of detachment, expressing a stance, impressing an irony laced wish or regret or situation. They progress through a self surrender to truth.

This is no place to go into the tricky business of versification and its merits, evidently all important in an art of words. But like must be compared with like. And here premature academicism can be a strangulating weedy superfluity. At any rate there was variety in the poems recited, in tones ranging from the high pitched mimetic, like those of Gopal Sharman read by Jalabala Vaidya to the low, measured spoken ones by Lalitha Venkateswaran. In an absolute sense a poem is never complete; one only gives it up in desperation. That being said, our poets had their hearts in theirs. And that's the main thing : life is felt life and their it was felt life, whether cool, warm, wry or sardonic. Hardly any of it was written for the sake of writing, for feathering the cap.

RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS WORDS

Realistic poets consign a good bit of their work to the waste paper basket. And those I spoke to had a healthy sense of reality, to know that it was not their's to become Poets, but only a delicate responsibility towards words. No one talked of tilting at the wind-mills of a mad world or of changing that world. The humbleness of the undertaking was transparent. Many of them would fall by the wayside, but good to have run. For others, here as everywhere else, only the law to resist the forces that have no truck with self revealing experience and which take art only as an ornament, not as the substance of living. For these young poets to walk where no one walks—by vacant lots, back lanes, by ditches, by drains, looking at each grain of dust and the debris to fetch it all back to a semblance of life, and value, by a magic device. And to have value is to have life. Unfrequented byways, that is the way, even if to be misunderstood, too. And one said to me : "To me poetry is, when one is lost in situations, unable to open the mouth or is if speaking, then speaking in monosyllables ; not wanting to make up one's mind about this and that, seeing the concentric rings in the water growing. Sucking from stones the music of the earth, sucking from the sun the honey of light." One could see, here was a chameleon, and to me a necessary one in a too partisan world.

In one sense these were the practitioners of what someones called a "dead art." And what seemed dead to this parsonage was what has no power of super machines and money and masses. It was "only the voice of the individual," and who has disappeared behind a mask. But I could not quite agree, the poems read had no effect on him because meaning unfolds slowly ; but there is an explosion in the self, and which though it will not change the world at will but change that self. But for this, one has really to immerse in the medium. This done, and which is a quiet going in a hasty world, masses, forces, nations, armies, power in the obvious sense, fades in majesty and the free human spirit, self-realising itself, has the only power over the soul.

One could see that our young poets are groping in lonely directions.

LARGELY SUPERFICIAL, IF NOT TOTALLY ILLUSORY

Education in Kerala —

CHANGE IN OUTLOOK AN URGENT NECESSITY

A. K. N. Nambiar
Director of Research and Studies

Till very recently Keralites used to gloat over the tremendous progress they had made in the field of education. One does not hear so much of such boastful claim nowadays. Could it be out of a supine complacence at their own supposedly wonderful progress or have stark realities forced a rethinking on the State in which eduacation is found today ? Both could be correct.

Going by the number enrolled in educational institutions of all kinds and by the number of schools, colleges, and technical and professional institutions available for the population, Kerala is undoubtedly ahead of most other States in the country. The State can also rightly take credit for the high proportion of its total revenue spent on education. On the above two counts there was certainly the justification to rejoice. But what of the outcome of the educational effort involving multitudes of institutions, as nearly as 40 per cent of State's revenues and quite a big investment of community resources ?

Education has certain avowed aims—cultural, ethical, creative and utilitarian. A people who demonstrates its intrinsic interest in education should, in contrast to others, show itself up as disciplined, creative and capable of optimum efficiency in production of goods and services. A community which claims to enjoy the benefits of education will face up to challenges thrown up by time and shall never have to give itself up in despair—whether it be in the matter of providing itself with basic amenities of life or keeping itself usefully employed.

MORE HARM THAN GOOD

Applying these criteria, the progress in eduacation that we have been claiming all along, will appear to be largely superficial if not totally illusory. One might even occasionally wonder whether the so called education has done more harm than good to a State which can ill afford to waste its severely limited resources.

If we are prepared to take a hard look at the way in which we have been organising our education, we will at once recognise a few simple truths—that we have been charmed by the magic of numbers ; there was very little of goal-directed effort ; and we have been drifting in the high flood of compulsions of time and circumstances with no conscious effort to define objectives or to chart out the most efficient methods to realise them. Anything unplanned will result in waste and confusion and lead to despondency. We have to admit that we are in such a state now, even at the risk of being accused of rank cynicism.

JOB-DIRECTED ASPIRATIONS

When a considerable part of the population of several

other States in the country were steeped in illiteracy, Kerala did well to bring their children under organised instruction till a stage was reached when it could be said that one hundred per cent of the children of school-going age were in schools. High schools came into existence in sufficient numbers to take in the large outflow from the primary schools. Colleges and universities were only inevitable in a context where a sizeable population who completed their general education course in schools were goaded by higher aspirations, which were mainly job-directed. Up to this point our performance was excellent. Then where did we fail ?

We forgot to take stock of the situation at each stage before we proceeded further ahead. We should have realised that education had to have a content apart from the numerical aspects and that qualitative improvement should take precedence over quantitative development, once a reasonable level is reached with regard to enrolment and provision of educational facilities in terms of the number of institutions. Had we accepted even rudimentary principles of manpower planning and guided ourselves accordingly, we would not have been lamenting today over thousands of unemployed engineers and technicians and persons trained for the teaching profession.

GROSS WASTE

While rejoining over the establishment of four universities including an Agricultural University whereas formerly there was only one, we should have taken a bold decision against duplication of teaching departments in the same or identical disciplines or admission to post-graduate departments which served only to turn out several hundreds of unemployable Master's Degree holders in science and humanities. Time was when the number of graduates and post-graduates among the population was a mark of distinction achieved by individual States ; today it signifies gross educational waste and degree of discontent to which the society is driven as long as the so-called highly educated persons are not offered employment commensurate with their academic equipment or suited to their reasonable aspirations.

Education is a big investment. Any investment naturally carries with it the expectation of a reasonable output which is disposable, and which conforms to specified norms of quality. Accumulation of unemployable and unemployed graduates or school leavers does not speak well of the soundness of the educational system.

Men in authority or moulders of public opinion seldom pause to ponder over the criminal waste inherent in the existing system. Their lack of interest in the doings of educational institutions makes a mockery of their occasional outburst regarding the inadequacies of the system.

MEANS OF EMPLOYMENT

A major ill bedevilling the educational system so far as Kerala is concerned, is to regard education solely as a means of largescale employment. We do not seem to be seriously upset when we are told that out of 100 children entering Standard I, only 30 manage to reach Standard V in the fifth year. We show a philosophic unconcern when year after year we find that out of 100 pupils taking the School Final Examination, less than 40 only qualify themselves for a bare pass and that too after a heavy dose of moderation of results. When we are told that our schools and colleges really work far less than one third of the number of days in a year, be it on account of student or teacher agitations, we do not at all care. Criticism, leave alone condemnation, or the disservice rendered by those responsible for instruction of children is out of the question for reasons which are extraneous to healthy educational practice. As in other sectors of public life, in the field of education, too, talk about hard work or discipline is taboo.

It has long become fashionable to condemn the present educational system as a legacy of the colonial rule. Innumerable speeches and writings have been made emphasising the urgency for a radical reform in the content and objectives of education. The need for work-oriented education and reshaping of educational content to fall in with the needs of a changing society hoping to set itself on the road of industrial and technological progress, are acclaimed all around. But when it comes to a question of really effecting the desired change, resistance comes from all quarters, sometimes even from the academic community. While clamouring for change, we seem to cling hopelessly to the traditional system.

When it is seen that as much as 95 per-ent of the expenditure at school stage is on teachers' salaries and hardly any provision is made for improvement of the professional competence of the teachers or for supply of essential equipment for proper instruction, our approach to education is quite clear.

It is time that Keralites realise that their investment in education is not likely to exceed the present limits in forseeable future and what is wise and expedi nt is to strive for proper return from the existing inputs. Our hope lies in a clear enunciation of immediete as well as long-term objectives and ruthlessly pursuing a path laid out to achieve them. We shall do well to remember that pursuit of excellence alone will result in lasting good.

Friends in Need

Libraries as Catalysts of Change

THEY HAVE TO SET OUT TO EDUCATE AND ATTRACT

Padma Ramachandran

Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.

Libraries serve many a purpose. Whether the country is an affluent/advanced one or a developing one, acquisition of knowledge is the very basis for survival, progress and strength. The library is an important and influential tool in this respect. There are, no doubt, many other powerful catalysts of influence and change like the film, radio, television and sound recordings. But they need to be supplemented by a good public library system because this latter can be used by the whole community.

Consider the value of a non-denominational, non-political central agency which can enrich the knowledge of facts and ideas in each voter in our young democracy in such a way that he can exercise his judgement uninfluenced by anyone else. In enabling the people to get a correct picture of how governmental affairs are run in other countries, and of our own governmental machinery and its work in the political, social and economic fields, libraries have a vital role to play. We can have a real democracy only when we have well-educated people. The primary service of the library has always been to the intellect. Most people in our country are so preoccupied with physical hunger that there is no time or inclination (unless it is innate and compelling) to satisfy intellectual hunger (if at all it exists). To meet this challenging situation, libraries will have to assume a much bigger role than is the case at present. It is a case of the mountain having to move to Mohammed. Libraries have to be of service to illiterates, open up avenues and windows of knowledge to remote and inaccessible villages and communities, participate in adult education, and provide home service to women (literacy and girls education) and other house-bound people. There are special classes of people to be served by a good library system, namely industrial workers (knowledge is increasing so rapidly that we need to learn today what is to be done for tomorrow), hospital patients, the blind, prisoners, the armed forces and perhaps even seamen. These are the principles underlying the concept of extension work through lectures and

attractive talks, exhibitions, libraries on wheels, branch libraries, provision of trade literature, services for children and reference libraries. In Britain some libraries organise even ambitious arts programmes. They ensure the total involvement of the community.

Libraries can no longer remain (as unfortunately they tend to do for various reasons) mere storehouses of books, they have to be dynamic and set out to educate and attract. In world conditions of rapid change and the explosion in technology and knowledge, man can have a full life only if he can keep pace with it, and here the role of the library is obvious.

Completing Education

The library is a necessary complement to formal education, and in fact should make up for the lacunae of inappropriateness and inadequacies in the educational system. Wide and unfettered reading no doubt enlarges the young mind. The freedom of choice it affords is indicative of the part it can play in developing in the student, reason and thought and in encouraging him to take the initiative and work on his own in freedom. Besides providing the stimulus to learning, it fulfils an important educational function by developing his personality. By helping character formation thus, it can resolve the cleavage between the world of work and of study. By encouraging young people to read more and exploit books to the maximum, the veil of inaccessiblity of knowledge can be torn asunder. Reading has many uses, many levels of satisfaction and values, emotional and intellectual depending upon one's capacity, individual environment and pre-disposition. The library can help in non-formal education — being a good aid to the open university, correspondence courses and university of the air.

Traditional Role

The traditional function of the library cannot be underrated. Love of literature and language adds greatly to the happiness of each generation. Research, recreation and intellectual refreshment need to be satisfied and if a library does nothing more than this, it would still be invaluable. Viewed thus, the library is a centre of culture and a channel for the spread of ideas. It makes people utilise their leisure intelligently. It preserves knowledge and kindles thoughts and ideas.

The library is also a centre for international understanding. Thus it serves the cause of peace as well.

Whether it is to escape from ourselves, be a better citizen or a more valuable member of society, make new discoveries or broaden our horizons, the library is the friend to turn to as a habit, and in particular in times of need.

Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation

A CLEARING HOUSE FOR IDEAS ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

P. V. Varghese
State Librarian, Government of Kerala

1972, the Silver Jubilee year of India's Independence, saw the birth of a new institution in public library service. The Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation was formed in memory of the great social reformer and educationist on May 20 in the year of his bicentenary. In thus honouring the Father of Indian Renaissance the country has created a very powerful instrument for imparting literacy and new knowledge to its masses through a network of libraries even in the remotest parts of the country.

The main objectives of the Foundation, which was formed at the Calcutta National Library premises, are to promote a library movement in the country, build up a national library system, provide financial and technical assistance to libraries and library associations, act as a clearing house for ideas and information on library development and bring out necessary literature for the purpose. It was registered as an autonomous body under the Societies Registration Act, West Bengal. Membership of the Foundation consists of specialists in library services and other disciplines and ex-officio representatives of the Government of India in the related Departments. The Union Minister for Education and Social Welfare is the Chairman of the Foundation. To mark the commencement of the activities of the Foundation, a set of books worth Rs. 5000 was donated to the Bristol Art Gallery, located at the place where Raja Rammohan Roy died.

Considering the various schemes that were to be taken up step by step, top priority was given to the establishment of a strong framework of library service at the district level and in order to implement it effectively a detailed survey of the existing situation in each State was thought of. To conduct the proposed service and to implement the schemes sponsored by the Foundation at the State-level, State, Library Planning Committees composed of representatives of the Foundation and State Governments were set up.

Funds

The Foundation commenced its activities with a capital of Rs. 50 lakhs donated by the Union

Government. The policy envisaged for raising funds is to approach the State Governments for contributions. Every year the Union and State Governments are expected to release their contributions to the Foundation. The amount allotted by the Foundation for each State will be in the form of a matching grant and so it is always advantageous for the States to contribute more to the Foundation so as to receive more in the form of books, cycles, etc.

Starting from the district libraries, the target of the Foundation is to cover all the villages with a population of 1,500 and above through mobile and other library services. In this effort all available resources of Nehru Youth Centres, model secondary schools and other institutions will be mobilised.

The Foundation has already been sending consignments of core books selected by a committee of experts under the chairmanship of Prof. Nihar Ranjan Roy to the district libraries throughout the State. In the first stage the committee confined its selection to books produced by the various Government and quasi-Government institutions, namely the National Book Trust, Sahitya Akademi, Publications Division, N. C. E. R. T., Indian Council of Agricultural Research, etc. Consignments to follow will include books published by private agencies also.

Books in Regional Languages

The task of selection of books published in regional languages has been entrusted to State Planning Committees. Since 80 per cent of the total funds available for books is spent on books in regional languages, multiple copies of each selected book could be bought and distributed among the district libraries which will in turn send them to small libraries on request for circulation and return.

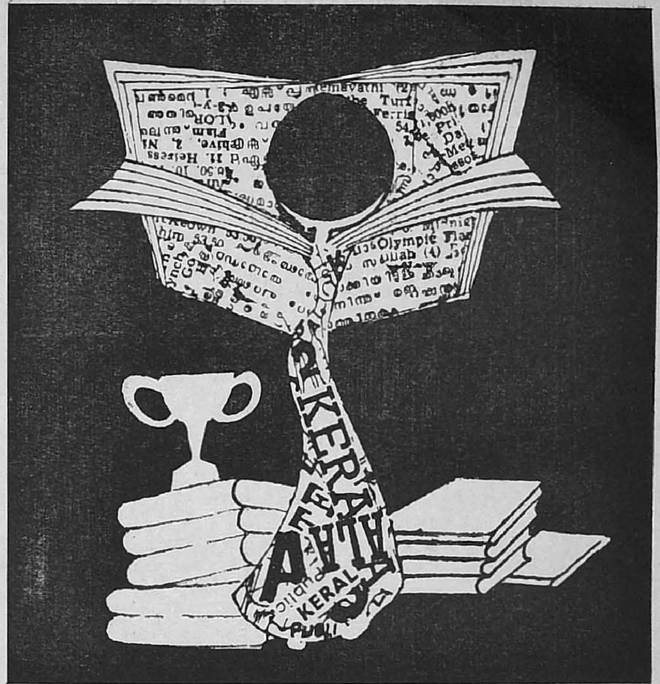
Of course what has already been done is only a very small part of the task. If the library movement is to gather momentum and catch on among those sections of the population who have hitherto remained outside the pale of the printed word, a very persistent and multi-pronged effort is called for. The task before the Foundation is to stimulate a thirst for knowledge and books and to provide the means for quenching that thirst. Hence the Foundation is of the view that the programmes taken up during the first stage should be geared to these two basic objectives before taking up more sophisticated aspects of library service. Strengthening of District Libraries, Block Libraries, and Village Libraries, provision for inexpensive mobile services, organisation of children's corners, orientation of necessary personnel for the implementation of the programme will meet the first objective. Production of literatutre on a variety of topics of current interest and information suited to the tastes and needs of the people of different walks of life, specially of those in the rural areas is again a must. The activities of the Foundation during the year 1973-74 and the Fifth Plan are directed towards these goals. The schemes now under the consideration of the Foundation includes one for preservation of rare and valuable books.

The Foundation in Kerala

An eight-member State Planning Committee was constituted in 1972 with the Director of Public Instruction as Chairman and the State Librarian as Member-Secretary. The other members of the Committee are (1) Shri D. R. Kalia (2) Dr. Prabhakar Machwe (3) Shri K. D. Puranik (4) Shri. U. A. Beeran (5) Shri P. T. Bhaskara Panikkar and (6) Shri A. Balagopal. The Committee selected 11 district libraries for the purpose of distributing books from the Foundation. An expert committee consisting of Shri N. V. Krishna Warrior, (Director, State Institute of Languages), Dr. K. M. George, Chief Editor, Malayalam Encyclopaedia, Shri P. T. Bhaskara Panikkar, President, Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom and Shri P. V. Varghese, State Librarian, was appointed to select books in Malayalam. Books from the list recommended by the committee are now being despatched to the district libraries directly by the publishers under the orders of the Foundation.

The State Committee recently forwarded its scheme for the development of library service during the Fifth Plan in the State to the Foundation for approval. The proposals of the committee include the establishment of two district libraries at Malappuram and Idikki, strengthening of the book stock in the various district libraries, taluk libraries, and 2,500 village libraries, launching a motor boat library in the Kuttanad area and provision of cycles to 500 libraries to start their mobile library service. The proposal to spend a sum of Rs. 20,000 for the preservation of rare and valuable books in the Trivandrum Public Library and other libraries during the Fifth Plan has also been approved. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 20 lakhs out of which Rs. 10 lakhs have to be contributed by the State Government.

The proposal, if implemented, will go a long way in improving the library facilities in the State and thereby in raising the quality of life of the common people.



OTHER KERALA LIBRARIES AND A STRONG MOVEMENT

GLIMPSES AND A SURVEY

Art is a means of human intercourse . . . the thing that distinguishes this means of intercourse from intercourse through words is that with the help of words one man communicates to another his thoughts; with the help of art people communicate their emotions.

Leo Tolstoy

There are great advantages in not being taken too seriously. Some writers are excessively serious about themselves. They accept the ideas of the "cultivated public". There is such a thing as over-capitalizing the A in artist the American novelist

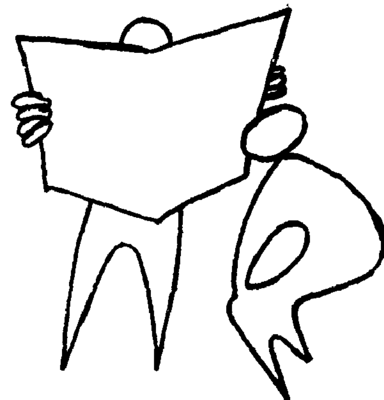
Saul Bellow.

I think that English language newspapers will continue and maintain their superior appeal to the intelligentsia at least for the next ten years. I do not think the saturation point of English papers has been reached.

Frank Moraes

India is a country where very few books are published in relation to the size of its population, even of its literate population. The 80 or so Universities, 2,200 colleges and some 7 lakh schools can't slake the enormous thirst for education, information and entertainment. In such environment, and with inflation riding high, few citizens have made the point that Indian newspapers are still providing net reading matter of 50, 60, and sometimes even 100,000 words a day for less than the cost of a Coca-Cola or a Limca.

Chanchal Sarkar



A Thirty-Year Old

Strong Library Movement in Kerala

OVER 4,000 LIBRARIES HAVE SPRUNG UP, BUT THEIR ORGANISATION NEEDS STATUTORY BACKING AND A PUSH FORWARD

P. Ramanujan Nair
Assistant Librarian,
Kerala University Library

In Kerala, one of the smallest States in India, having an area of 38,857 sq. kms, and a population of 21.347 million (1971 Census), there are now 4,100 public libraries, 150 college libraries several thousand school libraries, besides a few private libraries maintained by the Church, newspapers, political parties and ancient family houses. The best libraries in the State, rich in collection and open to the public, are the Public Library, the Legislative Library, the University Library, all in Trivandrum, and Public Libraries in Kottayam, Ernakulam and Calicut. Since the establishment of the Trivandrum Public Library in 1829, numerous public and private libraries appeared in Kerala. The emergence of libraries in different parts of the State, the difficulties experienced in running them and the dithering and collapse of several of them forced the public attention on the need for a library movement. Such a movement however did not take concrete shape until the Kerala Granthasala Sangham appeared in 1945 during the peak days of the freedom struggle. The national movement, the social reform movements, the formation of communal organisations, rapid growth of political consciousness, the struggle for responsible government and the emergence of political parties during the twenties and thirties of the present century accelerated the growth of libraries and hastened the birth of a library movement.

Reverence for and interest in books have been found in the people of Kerala right from ancient times. Archives maintained in certain ancient houses, mansions of landlords and palaces of ruling families could be cited to illustrate the point. Evidently the reading habit and the habit of preserving books were found only among the very well-to-do, upper class people in those days. No wonder it was so because for the overwhelming majority of people education was not only denied but prohibited; it was the close preserve of the ruling class. In course of time the old order yielded place to new and the monopoly of power and privilege of the old order crumbled. The frontiers of knowledge and the reading habit of the people developed steadily, which expanded further with the advent of printing and publication of books and periodicals. It was not easy to get books and other

reading material for all those who wanted them. One may say that the curiosity among the people at large to know more and more and read extensively could only have led to the emergence of libraries. Another element must also have been present. That is the knowledge about the system working in some other parts of the world. That element was supplied by our contact with the western system of education in the early nineteenth century. Naturally, public libraries appeared in Kerala in the first half of the nineteenth century. But there was no organised attempt at library movement until the establishment of schools and colleges in the State. The first English School at Trivandrum was founded in 1834, during the reign of Swathi Thirunal Maharaja. In 1866 it was raised to the status of a college, affiliated to the University of Madras. The first college in Cochin was established after ten years, in 1875. The products of these institutions were later to take initiative in establishing public libraries in different parts of Kerala.

Suguna Poshini

In Travancore State the first attempt to collect books in Malayalam and organise public libraries was made during the reign of Vishakham Thirunal Maharaja (1880-1885). The 'Suguna Poshini' at Vanchiyoor in Trivandrum was the first to appear on the scene. But it could only function for less than two years. 'Jnana Pradayini' at Neyyattinkara was formed in 1933 In the same year the 'Sankara Vilasom' Library came into being at Chengannoor. In the next one decade a few more libraries appeared, the most prominent among them being the Y. M. C. A. Library at Keezhkara, Sri Chitra Thirunal Library at Trivandrum, the Raja Raja Varma Library at Oachira, Lalitha Vilasini Library and Reading Room at Padmanabhapuram, Jnana Pradayini Library at Mavelikkara, Marthanda Vilasom Library at Eraniel, Sri Mulam Silver Jubilee Library at Thodupuzha, and the Bharathee Vilasom Library at Karapuzha, Kottayam. The Kottayam Public Library was established in 1882 by Shri T. Rama Rau, the then Division Peishkar (Collector) of Kottayam.

Very soon the movement began to take shape in Cochin State and Malabar as well. The Public Library at Ernakulam, the capital of Cochin State, was established in 1869, the Trichur Library in 1873, the Tellicherry Library in 1901, the Calicut Library in 1924 and the Cannanore Library in 1927. Simultaneously in villages also small libraries and reading rooms began to appear. Although every one of them was started by popular backing, the initial enthusiasm could not be sustained very long. With the result many of them were short-lived.

Library Meets

It was against this background that an All-Travancore Library Conference was held in 1925 under the auspices of the Jnanapradayini Library of Neyyattinkara. Another conference was held in 1933 at Trivandrum under the auspices of the Sri Chitra Thirunal Library which was followed by the third All-Travancore Library Conference at Neyyoor in 1935 under the auspices of Diwan Nanoo Pillai Memorial Library. These conferences helped to convince the general public of the urgent need for a strong library movement in the State. Secondly they reminded the Government of its responsibility in aiding and assisting libraries. This is not to say that the Government of Travancore was oblivious of its responsibilities towards libraries. Under the regime of Sri Mulam Thirunal rules were framed to give grant-in-aid to libraries. By 1917-18 there were about 47 libraries and reading rooms in Travancore receiving aid from the Education Department of the State. The maximum aid fixed was Rs. 200 per annum plus a small grant for procuring building facilities and furniture. The Government also used to supply all its publications to these libraries either at concessional rates or free of charge.

It may be pointed out here that in Travancore encouragement to libraries formed part of the Government's programme for expansion of educational facilities. The Education Reform Committee of Travancore made certain recommendations regarding Government's role in the development of libraries. In the light of these recommendations the Director of the Department of Education prepared a scheme in 1932 to establish a central distributing library and a number of rural libraries. In 1935 Government sanctioned the opening of 64 libraries attached to Government primary schools. Each library was sanctioned a sum of Rs. 100 per annum and 200 books. One daily newspaper and one periodical were also given free. In 1940 there were about 78 libraries with an average of 500 books, 42 newspapers and periodicals. In the next decade the number of libraries rose to 354.

In Cochin and Malabar, too, a library movement was taking deep roots during this period. In Cochin, rural libraries were started as part of the adult education programme, on an experimental basis in 1926. In the next 20 years these libraries increased in number, strength and resources. There were three types of libraries in Cochin by 1946: public libraries—4; extensive rural libraries—5 and village libraries—224. In Malabar, the District Board invited Dewan Ambat Sivarama Menon of Cochin who had served in the Administrative Committee of Madras libraries to advice on their organisation there.

All-Kerala Organisation

The first library conference in Malabar was held in 1937 at Calicut which led to the birth of an organisation called "the Malabar Vayanasala Sangham". It took another six years for the emergence of the first all-Kerala organisation. The organisation called "Kerala Granthalaya Sangham" was formed in December 1943 following a meeting held in Tellicherry in the same year. This in theory is the first organisation for the library movement in Kerala. But it

failed to give proper direction to the library movement in the State.

The dismal failure of the Sangham led to another meeting, this time at Ambalapuzha. The meeting held in August 1945 under the auspices of the well-managed P. K. Memorial Library resolved to form a central organisation and the 'All-Travancore Granthasala Sangham' was born with 47 libraries represented at the meeting as its members. In 1949 with the integration of Travancore and Cochin States its name was changed to the 'Travancore-Cochin Granthasala Sangham'. With the formation of Kerala State in 1956, the organisation assumed the name by which it is known through out India today—the Kerala Granthasala Sangham.

New Chapter

With the emergence of the Granthasala Sangham in 1945 with Shri P. N. Panikkar as its moving spirit began a new chapter in the history of the library movement in Kerala. As the Granthasala Sangham, which celebrated its silver jubilee recently, has made an inestimable contribution to the cultural renaissance of Kerala, its history is rightly considered the history of the library movement in Kerala.

The Sangham started its activities with limited objectives and programmes. It aimed at organising all libraries in Travancore and acting as its central organisation. Accordingly its first objective was to enrol all existing libraries as members. Secondly it wanted to revive and rejuvenate all defunct and stagnant libraries and establish them where there were none. It also sought to strengthen the organisation by enrolling more individual members and institute a common fund.

Naturally the organisers of the Sangham hoped to get encouragement and assistance from the Government. As a result of the presistent demands made by the Sangham in the early period, the Government of Travancore gave a monthly allowance of Rs. 250 to appoint organisers. The services of Shri P. N. Panikkar and Shri P. Madhavan Pillai were lent to the Sangham. The amount of the annual grant to the libraries was raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 240. Instructions were also issued to enrol libraries under the Travancore University as members of the Sangham.

The organisers were to enrol at least four new libraries in a division, set up at least one library or reading room and organise one taluk union a month. They were also expected to hold at least one meeting every two months, prepare and submit a detailed survey report regarding libraries in a taluk and organise at least one adult education centre.

Kottayam Conference

The Kottayam Conference held in 1946 marked a turning point in the history of the Sangham, and advanced its objectives and programmes. The Conference urged the Government to enact a library legislation and demanded the setting up of a Library Department. The scheme and the draft of a Bill prepared by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan were considered by the Conference and modified to suit the existing conditions in Travancore State.

In October 1947 a delegation of the Sangham met the then acting Dewan and presented its demands. They included the recognition of the Sangham as the spokesman and representative of all libraries in the State, the right to inspect the libraries, recommend grant to them and correspond with the Government on behalf of them. It also wanted modification and amendment of clause 194 of the Travancore Education Code laying the condition for giving grant to the libraries. The deputation pointed out the need to bring all libraries in Travancore under the administrative control of the Sangham. They also urged the Dewan to take steps to start a library science department in the Travancore University to train adequate number of librarians. This resulted in the setting up of a committee by the Government to review the work done by the Sangham and to recommend feasible assistance and encouragement.

The committee consisting of Sarvashri Sooranad Kunjan Pillai and Mathew M. Kuzhiveli and Dr. Sivarama subramonia Iyer strongly pleaded for a planned library policy to be framed by the Government in collaboration with non—official agencies, obviously meaning the Granthasala Sangham.

The other recommendations by the committee included the doubling of the annual grant to the Sangham, authorising the Sangham to inspect libraries and recommend award of grants to the libraries, affiliating all libraries including the Departmental Libraries to the Sangham and including the Sangham in conducing training for the librarians by the Department of Education.

A Home At Last

Another objective of the Sangham was to get an office building of its own. It started in a room of the P. K. Memorial Library at Ambalapuzha. After a year the office was shifted to Trivandrum and housed in a room of the Sri Chitra Thirunal Library. In June 1948 the University of Kerala permitted the Sangham to make use of one room in a building in the Sanskrit College campus. The successive democratic governments were unfortunately not much in favour of providing a Head quarters to the Sangham. But in 1957, when Kerala was under President's rule, the then Governor, the indomitable P. S. Rao, gave the Sangham the land to put up its own building near the Trivandrum Public Library. At long last, the Sangham constructed its own building there and occupied it on July 31, 1957.

With the formation of Kerala the activities of the Sangham were extended to Cochin and Malabar. The Sangham wanted to establish uniformity in the

functioning of libraries throughout the State. Simultaneousily attempts were made to broadbase its activities. Now it has a very ambitious programme before it. It aims at making every library in the rural and urban areas the cultural centre of the respective localities. The Sangham also seeks to provide nursery education and training to children during the pre-primary stage.

Recently a modern system of adult education was launched. This forms part of a comprehensive Rs. 45—lakh plan for functional literacy chalked out and submitted to the Union Ministry of Education. The Ministry instead of approving the whole plan, directed the Sangham to launch pilot projects in two development blocks. For the purpose a sum of less than a lakh of rupees was sanctioned. Ten centres each in two very underdeveloped blocks were selected and teachers given training. From among fishermen and agricultural labourers, 40 persons in the age group of 18-30 were selected for the experiment. They are being taught reading and writing as well as the techniques of their profession. General knowledge also is imparted. If the experiment succeeds, the Sangham hopes to get the approval of the Central Government for the comprehensive plan.

Reading Habits

The Sangham also wants to conduct a survey regarding the reading habits of the people in Kerala. The proposed survey is to be conducted with the help of the Statistics Department of the Government of Kerala and the local people connected with the Sangham.

Yet another scheme to stimulate and develop the reading habits of the people has been formulated by the Sangham which believes that if the members of a family are taught the habit of reading a book together, the reading habit would develop considerably. It is being given a serious trial.

The Sangham which started functioning with just 47 member libraries in 1945 has grown into a large organisation or movement with 4,100 member libraries. The phenomenal growth has been made possible through the selfless efforts of thousands of dedicated men and women. In addition to the co-operation and patronage extended to the movement by the people, the Government has also given encouragement and assistance. The Sangham which was receiving from the Government a grant of only Rs. 250 per mensem in 1946 now gets about Rs. one lakh a year.

The Sangham has taken over under its direct responsibility about 250 rural libraries which were attached to primary schools and all the uplift libraries attached to Panchayats. These have been developed into well-run public libraries.

Another significant stage in the development of the library movment was the launching of a scheme to construct key libraries at Taluk Centres with 50 per cent grant from the Government. Soon the villages took over the "own your own library" scheme.

Of the 4,100 libraries affiliated to the Sangham, 1,805 have their own buildings, which approximately cost sixteen million rupees. The lion's share of the amount was collected as donations from the public. The number of books in the libraries attached to the Sangham comes to seven million, worth nearly Rs. 11 million. The total membership of these libraries spread over the whole State comes to nearly seven hundred thousand. This is no small number indeed. But when the total adult population of the State-ten million-and the percentage of literacy, perhaps the foremost in India, are is taken into account, it is found to be only seven per cent of the population.

With the integration of the States of Travancore and Cochin all the Government village libraries were brought under the control of the Granthasala Sangham to be run as public libraries. The Library Department of Cochin State was abolished.

The birth of Kerala State was a fresh opportunity for developing the library movement. Though the Madras Library Act was in force in the Malabar area, it was not productive of any appreciable result. Even the amount realised by way of library cess was going substantially unutilised. There were only less than 50 libraries under a local library authority. There was no effort to draw upon the co-operation of the local public. Even the central libraries did not own suitable buildings. Against this background it is no mean achievement on the part of the Granthasala Sangham to have today in the Malabar region nearly 1,000 libraries organised and administered by it.

The Sangham, with the help of a committee of experts, makes the selection of books for the libraries. The published list of books is brought up to date from time to time.

The Sangham has published a Library Manual, Library Directory, Model Bye-Laws and Model Records and returns with a view to helping the libraries in their smooth and efficient working.

The official monthly of the Sangham, "Granthalokam", also contains directions and suggestions to the library workers, reports of library functions, studies and reviews of books and articles of literary and cultural value. The monthly was started 24 years ago. Mention should be made of the role of the Sangham in training librarians and in assisting them to get their allowances. As a result of the endeavours of the Sangham, a democratically organised Gradation Committee was constituted to determine and recommend grants to the libraries.

The Sangham has been successful in carrying the message of the library movement to the people. Public meetings, symposia, seminars and workshops are periodically held under the direction of the

Sangham and under the auspices of the member libraries, Taluk Unions, and District Councils.

Perhaps the most outstanding achievement of the Sangham was the quiet but enduring contribution made by the movement towards the establishment of the grassroots of democracy in the State. Nearly 75,000 social workers are actively connected with the library movement in the State.

The organisers of the Sangham claim that one of the major factors responsible for the significant success of the Sangham is its administrative set-up which is on democratic lines.

The day-to-day administration of the Sangham is carried on by an Executive Committee on behalf of the Governing Council. The Executive Committee consists of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a General Secretary, two Joint Secretaries and four members, all elected by the Governing Council from among its members. The Governing Council manages the affairs of the Sangham. While the Executive Committee is a small body of eleven members, the Governing Council is a larger body consisting of thirty nine persons. It is composed of three elected representatives from each District, six persons nominated by the above representatives, two nominees of the Government of Kerala and one nominee of the Kerala University.

Every library, affiliated to the Sangham, is managed by a committee elected by the general body of all members of the library. All the libraries in a Taluk are co-ordinated by a Taluk Union.

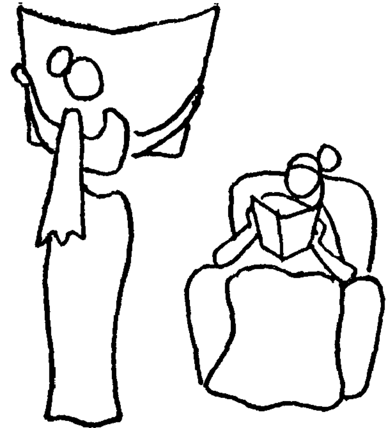
Each library elects two representatives to the Taluk Union general body. From among them they elect a Taluk Committee. Besides, the Taluk Union general body elects representatives to the State general body of the Granthasala Sangham. The District Committee supervises the work of all the taluk unions in the district. It is composed of the representatives of the elected members of the taluk unions. The District Committee functions as a liaison between the unions and the Sangham.

It has been already mentioned that the Granthasala Sangham co-ordinates, harmonises, directs and leads the numerous libraries in the State. The Governing Council of the Sangham, which is the policy-making body, is the representative body of the libraries in Kerala. To assist the Executive Committee and the Governing Council, there is a secretariat under the General Secretary. To meet the various items of expenditure the Government of Kerala gives the Sangham an annual grant of one lakh rupees. The other sources of income are the subscriptions collected by the libraries, proceeds from the sale of the Sangham's publications and donations from the public.

GRANDHASALA SANGHAM

Facts and figures in a nutshell from 1945

No. of libraries at the beginning	47
No. of libraries registered till now	3677
No. of libraries owning buildings	1720
Cultural organisations under its patronage like children's section, women's section, adult education, Arts and sports clubs	2474
Cost of buildings	1,72,32,525
No. of members	6,17,562
No. of books	66,91,311
Total cost of books	1,11,75,160
Books distributed	Rs. 1,49,54,487
District Committees	10
No. of Taluk Unions	51



Some Other Major Libraries in Kerala

Pakkar Koya
Assistant Editor,
Yojana

TRIVANDRUM

The University Library

Among Kerala's Best Five

If the Public Library is the oldest in Kerala, the University Library in Trivandrum with a total collection of more than 1.5 lakh books, is the largest. The library was started in 1942 amalgamating the two college libraries in existence. The present building constructed with the help of the University Grants Commission was occupied in 1962. It is one of the few university libraries whose doors are open to the general public. The only condition is that the applicants for membership should be graduates. From this year onwards an annual subscription of Rs. 10 is charged from the public with a view to restricting the number of members.

Now there are over 6,700 members including about 2,000 from among the people outside the University. No subscription fee is charged from the students and teachers who should pay a deposit of Rs. 10 and Rs. 15 respectively. The deposit amount for outside members is Rs. 25.

On working days, 6,000 to 7,000 books are issued. The daily number of visitors to the library and reading room works out to nearly 1,000. The library works on Sundays and on almost all holidays.

On an average 8,000 to 10,000 books are added yearly to the total collection of the library, the budgetary provision for new books this year being Rs. 1.5 lakh. Besides this a sum of Rs. 3 lakh is expected from the University Grants Commission. Nearly Rs. 1.25 lakh a year is spent towards the cost of periodicals.

Being a university institution, the library provides special facilities to research scholars. The research scholars can keep a minimum of 30 books at a time on their desks.

The library is organising a special section for studies on Kerala. It will be so designed that in future, any research scholar working on any aspect of Kerala should find a visit to this section a must. Out of the total collection of more than 1.5 lakh books, 15,000 or 20,000 are accounted for by Malayalam.

There is a special section each for students and

general education. The former contains many valuable text books they should read but cannot afford to buy because of the prohibitive cost. The general education section supplies such books as will raise the general level of knowledge of the reading public.

The University Library, adjudged by the U. G. C. as one of the best four or five libraries in India, also acts as a laboratory for the students undergoing training in the post-graduate course in library science conducted by the University of Kerala since 1961.

Sri Chitra Thirunal Library

Sri Chitra Thirunal Granthasala's origin should be traced to the inspiration felt by a poor fourth standard student in a Malayalam school while the teacher was giving his students a gist of a book called the Bookshop and Printing Press half a century ago. It took another four years for the boy, Kesava Pillai, who had by this time passed the seventh standard, to translate his ideas into action.

Those of the present generation who marvel at its present premises built at a cost of Rs. 145,000 at the Vanchiyoor Junction and make use of the rich collection of books there will find it hard to believe that it is largely the culmination of the efforts of a single individual.

The Granthasala was started in 1914 in a vacant corner of a small house with 25 books. Within three months the number of books rose to 500 when the library was shifted to a nearby place. In the second year the library occupied a rented room. Very often Shri. Kesava Pillai had to walk miles and miles on foot to collect books for his library. He reached every nook and corner of the erstwhile State of Travancore for the success of his mission, a mission which sometimes took him to Cochin and Malabar as well.

The result of his single-minded devotion and single-handed efforts is there for all to see. Today Shri Chitra Thirunal Granthasala has about 25,000 volumes of Malayalam books on its shelves. This is perhaps the biggest collection of Malayalam books anywhere in the State or outside. Almost all important Malayalam newspapers and periodicals are available in the Granthasala. Most of the oldest periodicals in Malayalam have been bound and kept here and provide a gold mine for research scholars.

The total membership of the Library, is nearly 500. On an average more than 300 people visit the Granthasala daily. There is a special section for children, opened in 1972. The Granthasala at present is the proud owner of assets worth Rs two lakh.

The British Library

The present British Library in Trivandrum was started in 1964 as part of the network of the then British Council Libraries in India. Following the decision of the Government of India not to have any foreign cultural missions where there are no consulates of the countries concerned, discussion took place between the Council and the Government regarding the future of these libraries totalling eleven. An agreement was soon reached providing for the continued operation of the seven libraries in non-consular centres, redesignating them as British libraries and vesting their management in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The four which operate in consular centres have been redesignated as British Council Division Libraries.

The British Library in Trivandrum had an initial stock of 7,000 books and 160 periodicals. The present bookstock is 30,000; 50 to 60 books are added every week. Periodicals number 165.

At present the library has a total membership of 3,508 including seven corporate members. An annual subscription of Rs 10 each is charged from the members No deposit is required. Institutions can enrol themselves as corporate members by paying an annual subscription of Rs. 30 and borrow 100 books for a period of three months at a time.

This is one of the few libraries which has done an analysis of its members by their profession and their social status. The survey conducted up to December 1971 holds good even now. The analysis revealed that 1,177 members were students. People belonging to the white-collared category constituted 22.3 per cent and teachers 7.9 per cent of the total membership. Technicians, doctors, lawyers, journalists, scientists, etc. accounted for 18.3 per cent.

On an average 650 books and 150 periodicals are issued every day by the library. The daily visitors to the library total more than 500.

An analysis of the reading habits of members was done in 1971 and it revealed that books belonging to fiction constituted 39.12 per cent of the total borrowing. The book belonging to Pure Sciences constituted 11.25 per cent of the books issued. The third place went to literary works excluding fiction. According to Mr. S. Parthasarathy, the Librarian, the trend revealed by these figures is more or less valid even today.

There is a small but attractive Children's Wing to cater to the tastes of children. Naturally the biggest attraction of the library is its English Language and Literature Section, which also happens to be the largest. It is the British Library which the discriminating reader approaches first and last for any book on English literature and the British

way of life. Yet another attraction for the readers is that some of the British periodicals reach their hands within three days of their appearance in Britain.

Books which are not available in any particular branch can be borrowed by a member from other British libraries in India. This inter-library loan facility is provided free of charge. In the same way membership of one particular British library is valid for all others in India.

The selection of books is done at different levels with the final authority vesting with the Books Department in Britain. Readers' suggestions for addition to the library are also welcomed. The list thus compiled is sent out to Delhi to the Chief Librarian. The list after scrutiny involving deletions and additions is forwarded to the Books Department in London for final approval.

The activities of the Trivandrum Library are not confined to the distribution of books and periodicals. It takes active interest in organising book exhibitions on special occasions such as the death or birth centenaries of famous writers and various conferences at State and national levels.

KOTTAYAM

Kottayam Public Library

The Kottayam Public Library started in 1882 by T. Rama Rao, the then Diwan Peshkar of Kottayam, has made great contributions to the cultural renaissance of central Travancore.

The seven-cent site where the new building of the library stands was bought in December 1882 for a paltry sum of Rs. 500. The new four-storeyed building costing more than Rs. 3 lakh was constructed according to an expansion scheme approved in 1962. Ever since 1942 attempts were made and schemes formulated to modernise the library either by remodelling the old structure or constructing a new one. But nothing came to fruition till 1962 when the Library Committee was able to secure a grant of Rs. one lakh from the A. V. George Memorial Commitee, Rs. 30,000 from the Central Government and Rs. 15,000 from the Kerala Government.

The Kottayam Municipal Council granted Rs. 5,000 and the Syndicate Bank extended a loan assistance of Rs. 50,000. A sum of Rs. 92,000 was realised by way of contributions and the sale proceeds of a drama festival conducted by the Committee. The new building was inaugurated in July 1966 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Women's Reading Room and the Children's Section were thrown open in 1964 and 1965 respectively. Steps are under way to set up a special library for children which, the authorities hope, will be the best in India. The Committee has already collected more than Rs. 4 lakh for this purpose.

Now there are 75,000 books on the shelves of the library. The number of periodicals is nearly 360. There are more than 1,800 members on its rolls. The Distributing Library started by the Kerala Government in 1957 to feed the libraries in Kottayam district is attached to the public library. Over 120 libraries are benefited by this scheme.

At its inception, the annual Government grant for the library came to only to Rs. 80. Now the administrative expenditure alone comes to more than Rs. 50,000.

And the development goes on. . . The Library is to add a third building to its assets in the near future. The three-storeyed building to be put up at Shastri Road will be at an estimated cost of over Rs. 8 lakh.

ERNAKULAM

Ernakulam Public Library

Premises of Its Own

The Ernakulam Public Library, one of the oldest in the State, had a very humble beginning in an ill-ventilated and rickety shed in the Government High School campus, now the Maharaja's College. From there it went to the then Town Hall which was also the Legislative Council (the present Law College). After some years the Library was again shifted to the building of the Cochin State Power and Light Corporation. Before long the Corporation claimed its building and the library moved to the present building. Happily, the Kerala Government has now granted 45 cents of land to the library near its present site for constructing a two-storeyed building at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 lakh.

The Ernakulam Public Library started functioning with 299 books and 38 members. At present there are over 21,000 books and nearly 700 members. Three hundred persons visit the library daily, the

number of visitors to the children's section, opened in 1969, being 100. Around 2000 books are issued every day; the monthly income is about Rs. 1,500.

There is a good reference section and a Unesco information centre where all the U.N. publications are available. Recently a Sanskrit section was opened. Almost all periodicals published in Kerala and all important periodicals, both Indian and foreign, are made available. The library gets an annual grant of Rs. 1,200 from the State Government and Rs. 500 from the Cochin Corporation.

TRICHUR

Trichur Public Library

The Trichur Public Library, which celebrated its centenary last year, was started in 1873. One of the oldest institutions of its kind in the West Coast, the library was first housed in a hoary Government building on the eastern side of the Paramekkavu Temple Tank made available by the Government free of rent. In 1939 the late Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, the then Dewan of Cochin, placed at the disposal of the library a portion of the Town Hall building, where it is functioning at present. Later the Crush Hall as well as the first floor of the Town Hall building were also added to the library.

In 1950 the library was affiliated to the Travancore-Cochin Library Association and was recognised as the Taluk Central Library.

The Trichur Public Library was started with 20 members on its rolls. The membership as on March 31, 1973 was 649 and the number of books issued to members during the year was 50,131. There were on the shelves of the library 30,077 volumes during that period. The number of magazines subscribed for and received free was 117. At present the library receives an annual grant of Rs. 5,000 from the Government of Kerala.

Although the library had a Distributing Section to cater to the needs of the rural libraries attached to it, the management of this section was transferred in 1970 to the office of the Deputy Director of Primary Education at Ramavarmapuram.

The library has been recognised by Unesco as one of its chief centres in India and has received books from the organisation. The Central Parliament Library, New Delhi, the U S I S in Trivandrum and Madras, and the Rajah Rammohan Roy Library Foundation have also made available a large number of books.

CALICUT

Library Movement in Calicut

The District Central Library, Calicut, one of the oldest in the Malabar region, came into being in the latter half of the 19th century. It was run by the Calicut Municipality as the Municipal Library till 1952 when it passed into the hands of the Local Library Authority constituted for Calicut according to the provisions of the Madras Public Library Act passed in 1948.

The Act, the object of which was to organise a network of main and branch libraries in each district and stock them with suitable books, gave a new impetus to the library movement in Malabar, then a part of Madras.

The Local Library Authority constituted under the provisions of the 1948 Act is empowered to levy in its area a library cess in the form of a surcharge on the property or house tax levied in such areas. The cess collected by the Municipal Councils in municipal areas and panchayats in their areas is utilised by the authority for all expenses under the Public Library Act. Government contributes an amount equal to that collected by way of cess.

The most important institution managed by the Authority is the District Central Library at Calicut. Besides there are a number of branch and rural libraries and book delivery stations. On an average an amount of Rs. 1,500 is spent annually for purchasing books and periodicals for each of the branch libraries while the rural libraries get Rs. 1000 each. In addition 28 libraries located in various parts of the district are given grant-in-aid.



നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തെ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ

സംസ്കാരത്തിന്റെ തീപ്പന്തങ്ങളാകണം

പി. ടി. ഭാസ്കരപ്പണിക്കർ

കേരള ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാ സംഘത്തിന്റെ മുൻ പ്രസിഡന്റ്,
എഡിറ്റർ, ഭാഷാ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട്

തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തെ പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയുടെ ജൂബിലി ആഘോഷിക്കുമ്പോൾ, നമ്മുടെ ഗ്രാമീണ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളുടെ സ്ഥിതി എന്താണെന്ന് മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതും കൂടുതൽ ലൈബ്രറി സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ സർക്കാർ എന്തൊക്കെ ചെയ്യണമെന്നന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതും നന്നായിരിക്കും. വലിയ ലൈബ്രറികൾ നമുക്കു വേണം. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ആയിരക്കണക്കിലുള്ള ഗ്രാമീണ ലൈബ്രറികൾ വികസിപ്പിച്ചെടുക്കാനും നമുക്കു കഴിയണം.

1970-'73 കാലത്ത് കേരള ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാ സംഘത്തിന്റെ പ്രസിഡന്റ് എന്ന നിലയ്ക്ക് കേരളത്തിലെ ഗ്രാമീണ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെടാൻ കിട്ടിയ അവസരം എനിക്കു നൽകിയ അനുഭവപാഠങ്ങളാണീ ലേഖനം തയ്യാറാക്കാൻ എന്നെ സഹായിച്ചത്.

നമ്മുടെ ഗ്രാമീണ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ, വെറും ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളല്ല. സാമൂഹ്യകേന്ദ്രങ്ങളാണ്. അവിടെ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ശേഖരിച്ചിരിക്കും. ചില പത്രങ്ങളും വരുത്തുന്നുണ്ടാവും. കലാസമിതികളും സ്പോർട്സ് ക്ലബ്ബുകളും നഴ്സറി സ്കൂളുകളും സാക്ഷരതാ കേന്ദ്രങ്ങളും എല്ലാം ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയെ കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ചാണ് നടത്തുന്നത്. അഭ്യസ്തവിദ്യരായ, എന്നാൽ തൊഴിലില്ലാത്ത ചെറുപ്പക്കാരുടെ ഒരു വിഹാരരംഗമാണ് വായനശാല. അവർ വൈകുന്നേരം വായനശാലയിൽ പോകുന്നു. തുല്യ ദുഃഖിതരായ മറ്റു ചെറുപ്പക്കാരുമായി ആശയവിനിമയം നടത്തുന്നു. പത്രങ്ങളിലും ഗസറ്റിലും വരുന്ന നോട്ടിഫിക്കേഷനുകൾ നോക്കുന്നു. അപേക്ഷകളയക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള വഴികൾ ആരായുന്നു. കൂട്ടത്തിൽ രാഷ്ട്രീയ—സാമൂഹ്യകാര്യങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുന്നു.

അവിടെ പുസ്തകങ്ങളില്ലേ? ഉണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ വേണ്ടത്ര വായനയുണ്ടോ? ഇല്ല. എന്താണിതിനു കാരണം? ഏററവും പ്രധാന കാര്യം, എല്ലാത്തരം പുസ്തകങ്ങളും വായിക്കാൻ നമ്മുടെ വായനക്കാർക്കിനിയും കഴിയുന്നില്ല. എന്നതാണ് നെഹ്റുവിന്റെ ആത്മകഥയും വിശ്വചരിത്രാവലോകനവും ലൈബ്രറിയിലുണ്ടാവും. പക്ഷെ അവ വായിച്ചവരുടെ എണ്ണം കുറവാവും. അതേ സമയം, നോവലുകളൊട്ടുമുക്കാലും മിക്ക മെമ്പർമാരും വായിച്ചിരിക്കും. പത്രങ്ങൾ, വാരികകൾ ഇവയും വായിക്കും. നല്ല മാസികകൾപോലും അത്രയൊന്നും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കപ്പെടാറില്ല. ചുരുക്കിപ്പറഞ്ഞാൽ, വായനയുടെ നിലവാരം താണതാണ്.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലെ തകരാറ്

ഈ താഴ്ചക്കു കാരണം വായനശാലക്കാരല്ല. അവർ വളരെ വിഷമിച്ചാണ് വായനശാലകൾ നടത്തുന്നത്. കയ്യിൽ നിന്നു കാശു ചെലവാക്കിയും പിരിവുകൾ നടത്തിയുമാണ്, സർക്കാരിന്റെ ഗ്രാൻറിനെ മാത്രം ആശ്രയിച്ചല്ല, ഈ ഗ്രാമീണ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളിലധികവും നടത്തുന്നത്. ഇത്രയൊക്കെ അവർ പാടുപെടുന്നതുതന്നെ അഭിനന്ദനീയമാണ്. അപ്പോൾ വായനനിലവാരം ഉയരാത്തതിനു് എന്താണ് കാരണം എന്നന്വേഷിക്കുക.

ഏററവും പ്രധാന കാര്യം നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ തകരാറുതന്നെ. ഇവിടെ പത്താം ക്ലാസ്സു വരെയോ, കോളേജു ക്ലാസ്സുകളിലോ പഠിക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ, ക്ലാസ്സ് പുസ്തകങ്ങൾക്കു പുറമെ വല്ല പുസ്തകങ്ങളും വായിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ? അവരെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അദ്ധ്യാപകരോ? തങ്ങൾക്കു ക്ലാസ്സിലേക്കു വേണ്ട തയ്യാറെടുപ്പിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി വരുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ പോലും അവരിലധികം പേരും വായിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നതാണ് അസുഖകരമായ വാസ്തവം. എല്ലാവരേയും അടച്ചുതുടച്ചു ആക്ഷേപിക്കുകയല്ല ചില യാഥാർത്ഥ്യങ്ങളിലേക്കു ശ്രദ്ധതിരിക്കുകയാണ്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ വായനക്കു അത്ര വലിയ സ്ഥാനമൊന്നുമില്ല. ചുരുങ്ങിയതു് ഇന്നിന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങളെങ്കിലും പത്താം ക്ലാസ്സു വരെയുള്ള പഠനത്തിനിടയിൽ വായിക്കണമെന്നില്ല. അതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊ

നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തെ നാലായിരം ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളെപ്പററിയാണ് ഞാനെഴുതുന്നത്. നഗരങ്ങളിലെ പുസ്തകാലയങ്ങളും നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തെ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളും തമ്മിൽ ചില വിത്യാസങ്ങളൊക്കെയുണ്ട്. ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലിന്നും നടമാടുന്നതു ഫ്യൂഡൽ സംസ്കാരമാണ്. അതിന്റെ സ്ഥാനത്തു് പുതിയൊരു ജനകീയ സംസ്കാരം വരണം. അതു തന്നത്താൻ വരില്ല. ബോധപൂർവമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനം നടത്തണം. ഈ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിന്റെ നേതൃത്വമാണ് ഗ്രാമീണ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ ഏറെറടുക്കേണ്ടതു്.

ട്ടുക്കുന്നുമില്ല. സ്കൂളിനകത്തുവച്ച് വായന പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നു സാരം.

നമ്മുടെ സ്കൂൾ ലൈബ്രറികളുടെ നില പരിശോധിച്ചാൽ മതി, കാര്യങ്ങൾ വെളിവാകും. പലപ്പോഴും ലൈബ്രറി പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ 'ഇഷ്യു' ചെയ്യാറില്ല. രണ്ടായിരവും, മൂവ്വായിരവും പുസ്തകങ്ങളുണ്ടാവും, ലൈബ്രറിയിൽ. പക്ഷെ, അവയൊക്കെ ഒന്നു ഗ്രേഡു ചെയ്ത്, ഓരോ ക്ലാസ്സിലുമുള്ള കുട്ടികളെക്കൊണ്ടു വായിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള യാതൊരു ശ്രമവും നടക്കുന്നില്ല. പരീക്ഷക്കുവേണ്ടി മാത്രമാണ് വായന. അല്ലാത്തതൊക്കെ സമയം കൊല്ലലാണ് എന്ന ധാരണ കുട്ടികളിലും രക്ഷിതാക്കളിലും വളർന്നിരിക്കയാണ്. വായന, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ അഭേദ്യഭാഗമാക്കാൻ നമുക്കു കഴിഞ്ഞാലേ ഈ ദുർഗ്ഗതി തീർക്കാൻ കഴിയൂ.

വായിക്കാനെന്തുണ്ട്?

ഇതിനൊരു മാററം വരുത്തണം. നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെക്കൊണ്ടു ധാരാളം വായിപ്പിക്കണം. പുതിയ അനവധി കാര്യങ്ങൾ അവർ അതാതവസരംതന്നെ മനസ്സിലാക്കണം. അവർക്കു പററിയ മാസികകളും ആനുകാലികങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാവണം. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ കേരള ശാസ്ത്രസാഹിത്യ പരിഷത്ത് നടത്തിയ ശ്രമങ്ങൾ ഫലപ്രദമാണെന്നു കണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രൈമറി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി നടത്തുന്ന 'യുറീക്ക'യും ഹൈസ്കൂൾ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കായുള്ള 'ശാസ്ത്രകേരള'വും കോളേജ് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള 'ശാസ്ത്രഗതി'യും വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കും അധ്യാപകർക്കുമിടയിൽ പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. പ്രചാരം ഇന്നത്തേതു് പോരാ എന്നറിയാം. പക്ഷെ, ആ വഴിക്കുള്ള പരിശ്രമം ഫലിക്കുമെന്നതിന്നു് ശാസ്ത്രസാഹിത്യപരിഷത്തിന്റെ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങൾ തെളിവുതരുന്നു.

കുട്ടികൾക്കു വായിക്കാൻ പററിയ സാഹിത്യം നമുക്കില്ല. മുതിർന്നവർ വായിക്കുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ കുട്ടികൾക്കു പററിയതാകണമെന്നില്ല. സമസ്ത വിഷയങ്ങളെപ്പററിയും കുട്ടികൾക്കു വായിക്കാൻ പററിയ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ സർക്കാരിന്നോ, പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണശാലക്കാർക്കോ യാതൊരു ഉൽസാഹവുമില്ല. ഒന്നാമതു് കുട്ടികൾക്കു പററിയ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറാക്കുകയും, ഭംഗിയായി പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു ഭാരിച്ച പണിയാണ്. 'പ്രാരബ്ധങ്ങൾ' ഓർത്തു് ആ പണിയിൽ നിന്നു മാറി നിൽക്കാനാണ് പലരും ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നതു്. ഈ പ്രവണത അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചേ തീരൂ.

വായിച്ചു വളരണമെങ്കിൽ

അതവിടെ നിൽക്കട്ടെ. നമ്മുടെ നാലായിരത്തോളം വായനശാലകൾക്കു് വായനശീലം വളർത്തിയെടുക്കുന്നതിൽ എന്തൊക്കെ ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിയും? ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായി വേണ്ടതു് പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വായനക്കാരുടെ അടുത്തെത്തിക്കലാണ്. വീട്ടിൽ പുസ്തകമെത്തിക്കാൻ കഴിയണം. അതിന് അത്ര വിഷമമൊന്നുമില്ല. അടുത്തുള്ള വീട്ടുകാർ വഴിയും സ്കൂൾ കുട്ടികൾ വഴിയും പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വീടുകളിലെത്തിക്കാൻ കഴിയും. പ്ലാനിട്ടു പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം എന്നുമാത്രം. ഓരോ സ്കൂൾ കുട്ടിയും മൂന്നോ നാലോ വീടുകളിൽ പുസ്തകങ്ങളെത്തിക്കുന്ന ചുമതല ഏൽക്കട്ടെ. ദിവസേന പത്തോ ഇരുപതോ വീടുകളിലെങ്കിലും പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ എത്തിക്കാൻ ഒരോ വായനശാലക്കും കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ എത്ര നല്ലതാണ്. നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തെ സ്ത്രീകൾ ഇപ്പോഴും വായനശാലയിൽ വന്നു് പുസ്തകങ്ങളെടുത്തു വായിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടില്ല. എന്നോർക്കുമ്പോഴാണ് ഈ പരിപാടിയുടെ പ്രാധാന്യം മനസ്സിലാവുക.

കുട്ടികളെ വായിപ്പിക്കാൻ ലൈബ്രറികളിൽ ബാലവിഭാഗങ്ങൾ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു പ്രായോഗികമായി ഫലപ്രദമാണെന്നു് കണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ബാലവിഭാഗത്തിന്റെ ചുമതല കുട്ടികളെത്തന്നെ ഏൽപ്പിക്കുകയും വേണം. പത്തോ മുപ്പതോ കുട്ടികളുടെ വകയായായാലും നടക്കും. കുട്ടികൾക്കു പററിയ ഏതെല്ലാം പുസ്തകങ്ങളാണ് ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിലുള്ളതെന്നു കുട്ടികൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതുതന്നെ വലിയൊരു കാര്യമാണ്. ലൈബ്രേറിയനെന്ന താക്കോൽക്കാരന് പലപ്പോഴും പുസ്തകം സൂക്ഷിപ്പിലാണ് കൂടുതൽ താൽപര്യം. പുസ്തകം വായിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലാവണം ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാ പ്രവർത്തകർ താൽപര്യം കാണിക്കേണ്ടതു്. അതിന്നുതകിയ പരിപാടികൾ ആസൂത്രണം ചെയ്യുകയും വേണം.

വായനശാലകളോടൊത്തു് സാക്ഷരതാകേന്ദ്രങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതു വായനയെ വളരെയേറെ വിപുലപ്പെടുത്തും. നമ്മുടെ അധ്വാനിക്കുന്ന ജനവിഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ വളരെയധികം പേർ നിരക്ഷരരാണ്. ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ കൊല്ലം സ്കൂളിൽ പോയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, അന്നു പഠിച്ചതെല്ലാം മറന്നു നിരക്ഷരതയിലേക്കു വീണവരാവും അവരിലധികവും. വായനശാലകൾ, പുതിയ വായനക്കാരെ ഉണ്ടാക്കണം—ഇന്ത്യയെപ്പോലുള്ള രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ. അതിനാണ് സാക്ഷരതാ പ്രസ്ഥാനം. ഗ്രന്ഥശാലാ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിന്റെതന്നെ ഭാഗമാണ് സാക്ഷരതാ പ്രസ്ഥാനം. നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ പുതിയ വായനക്കാരെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഏററവും നല്ല വഴി, സാക്ഷരതയിലേക്കു് ആളുകളെ കൊണ്ടുവരലാണ്.

ഇങ്ങനെ സാക്ഷരരായവർക്കു് വായിക്കാൻ പ്രത്യേകം പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വേണം. വിവിധ വിഷയങ്ങളെപ്പററി, കഴിയുന്നത്ര അവരുടെ ജീവിതത്തിനാവശ്യമായ കാര്യങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ നൂറുക്കണക്കിൽ ഉണ്ടാകണം. നവസാക്ഷര സാഹിത്യം എന്നോ മററോ അതിനെ വിളിക്കാം. ഇത്തരം പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വായിപ്പിച്ച് പുതിയ വായനക്കാരെ വായനശാലയിലുള്ള പത്രമാസികകളിലേക്കും പുസ്തകങ്ങളിലേക്കും പതുക്കെ നയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവരാൻ നമുക്കു കഴിയണം.

നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തെ ഒരു സാമൂഹ്യകേന്ദ്രം ആകണം ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ. നാട്ടിലുള്ള എല്ലാ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളിലും ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾക്കു താൽപര്യം വേണം. പുതിയൊരു റോഡു വെട്ടുന്ന കാര്യമായാലും, ലോവർ പ്രൈമറി സ്കൂൾ അപ്പർ പ്രൈമറിയായി ഉയർത്തുന്ന കാര്യമായാലും, ഗ്രാമീണ വൈദ്യുതീകരണമായാലും, എല്ലാ കാര്യത്തിലും ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ തീവ്രമായ താൽപര്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കണം സർവ കാര്യങ്ങളിലും ചെന്നു തലയിട്ടു് സംഗതികൾ അവിയലാക്കുന്ന പ്രവണത ഒഴിവാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണം.

ഗ്രാമീണ ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകൾ, പുതിയൊരു സംസ്കാരത്തിനു വേണ്ടി നിലകൊള്ളണം. ഫ്യൂഡല സം നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളെ പിന്നോക്കം വലിച്ചു നിർത്തുന്നു. ഭൂനിയമത്തിന്റെ ഫലമായി ഭൂവുടമനാർ മാത്രം മാറിയാൽപ്പോരാ. ഫ്യൂഡൽ വിരുദ്ധശക്തികൾക്കാവണം നാട്ടിൽ മുൻകയ്യും നേതൃത്വവും. ആ നിലക്കു നോക്കിയാൽ ഫ്യൂഡൽ വിരുദ്ധമായൊരു സംസ്കാരം കെട്ടിപ്പടുക്കുന്നതിൽ മുൻകയ്യെടുക്കേണ്ടതു് വായനശാലകളാണ്. ജാതിയുടേയും മതത്തിന്റേയും തറവാട്ടു മഹിമയുടേയും നാട്ടാചാരങ്ങളുടേയും കാലം കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. പുതിയ തരം കൃഷിയും കൈത്തൊഴിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും നമുക്കാവശ്യമായിവന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. നവീനാശയങ്ങൾ, ശാസ്ത്രീയാശയങ്ങൾ, ജനങ്ങൾക്കിടയിൽ പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. പുതിയ മനുഷ്യത്വത്തെ തട്ടിയുണർത്തുക എന്നതാവണം, ഗ്രന്ഥശാലകളുടെ മുഖ്യ കടമ.

ഈ കടമ നിർവഹിച്ചാലേ ഗ്രാമീണ ലൈബ്രറികൾക്കു് സാമൂഹ്യ പരിവർത്തനത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു എന്നു അഭിമാനിക്കാൻ കഴിയൂ.

പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വായനക്കാരുടെ കൈകളിലെത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഫലപ്രദമായ ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകണം; ഓരോ സ്കൂൾ കുട്ടിയും മൂന്നോ നാലോ വീടുകളിൽ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ എത്തിക്കുന്ന ചുമതല സ്വയം ഏറ്റെടുക്കുന്ന വല്ല സംവിധാനത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും ആലോചിക്കാൻ സമയമായില്ലേ?

മഹത്തായ ഒരു സ്ഥാപനം

പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി-

എൻെറ ജീവിതത്തിൽ

ജനകീയഭരണത്തിൽ പഴയ തറവാടിൻെറ ശോച്യാവസ്ഥയിൽ

എം. കെ. കുമാരൻ
ചെയർമാൻ, കേരളാ പബ്ലിക് സർവീസ് കമ്മിഷൻ

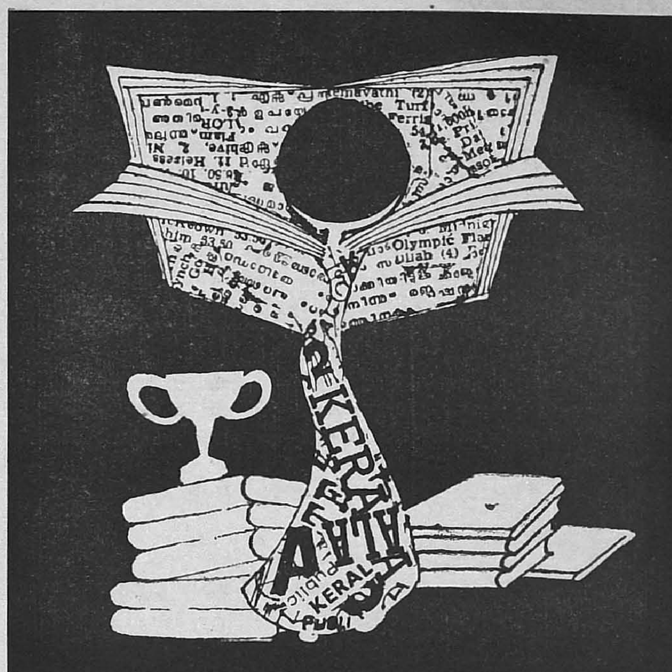
ജനിച്ചതു് തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തല്ലെങ്കിലും ഞാൻ ഇന്നു് തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുകാരനാണു്. ആയുസ്സിൻെറ ഏററവും കൂടുതൽ ഭാഗം കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള ഈ നഗരത്തോടു് 'വരത്ത'രെങ്കിലും, എന്നെപ്പോലുള്ളവർക്കു് പ്രത്യേക മമതയുണ്ടു്. ഇവിടുത്തെ പല സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും എനിക്കു് പ്രിയംകരങ്ങളാണു്. ഞാൻ നാലു വർഷം പഠിച്ച പ്രിയപ്പെട്ട ആർട്സ് കോളേജ്, രണ്ടു വർഷം നിയമവിദ്യാഭ്യാസംചെയ്ത ലാ കോളേജ്, വളരെക്കാലം ജോലി ചെയ്യുകയും, എന്റെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ ഒരംശമായിത്തീരുകയുംചെയ്ത കേരളകൗമുദി ആഫീസ് ഇവയെല്ലാം ഈ നഗരത്തിലാണു്. പുറത്തു് എവിടെയെങ്കിലും പോയാൽ, തിരിച്ചുവരുന്നതുവരെ അസ്വസ്ഥത തോന്നത്തക്കവണ്ണം തിരുവനന്തപുരം എൻെറ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ സ്ഥാനം പിടിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കുറേക്കാലംമുമ്പുവരെ രണ്ടു കാര്യങ്ങളാണു്, ഇവിടുത്തെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ എന്നെ കൂടുതൽ ആകർഷിച്ചിരുന്നതു്. വൈകുന്നേരം മെയിൻ റോഡിൽ ഒന്നിറങ്ങി നടക്കുകയും, സ്നേഹിതന്മാരെ കാണുകയും ചെയ്യുക; പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയിൽ ഒന്നു കേറിയിറങ്ങുക. ഇതു രണ്ടും മുമ്പത്തെപ്പോലെ നടക്കാത്തതിൽ എനിക്കു് വിഷമമുണ്ടു്.

തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയുമായി ഞാൻ ബന്ധപ്പെടുന്നതു് ആർട്സ്കോളേജിൽ ബി. എ.യ്ക്കു് പഠിക്കുമ്പോഴാണു്. പുസ്തകവായനയിൽ അത്യാർത്തിയുള്ള ചില കൂട്ടുകാർ എനിക്കു് ആർട്സ് കോളേജിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. കോളേജ് ലൈബ്രറിയിൽനിന്നു് പുസ്തകങ്ങളെടുത്തു വായിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ തമ്മിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വമായ ഒരു മൽസരം നടന്നിരുന്നു. വിജ്ഞാനത്തിൻെറ വിവിധ ശാഖകളിൽപെട്ട മിക്ക നല്ല പുസ്തകങ്ങളും ലഭ്യമായ ഒരു ലൈബ്രറിയാണു് ആർട്സ് കോളേജിനുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു്. പ്രശസ്തരും പണ്ഡിതാഗ്രണികളുമായ പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽമാരും പ്രൊഫസർമാരും താലോലിച്ചു വളർത്തിയ ഒരു ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരമായിരുന്നു അതു്. ഇൻറർ മീഡിയററിനു പഠിച്ച രണ്ടു വർഷങ്ങളിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ ഈ ഗ്രന്ഥശേഖരം നല്ലതുപോലെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തി.

ബി. എ. ക്ലാസ്സിലെത്തുമ്പോഴേക്കു്, രാഷ്ട്രീയത്തിൽ വലിയ താൽപര്യമുള്ള ഒരു വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയായി ഞാൻ മാറിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. രാഷ്ട്രീയ രംഗത്തു് എനിക്കു് പല സ്നേഹബന്ധങ്ങളുമുണ്ടായി. എം. എൻ., പി. ടി. പുന്നൂസ്, പുതുപ്പള്ളി രാഘവൻ, കെ. സി. ജോർജ്, പൊന്നറ ശ്രീധർ, കരുക്കരം, പൂജപ്പുര കൃഷ്ണൻനാർ ഇങ്ങനെ പലരും കൂട്ടത്തിൽപെടും. ഇവരിൽ പുന്നൂസും ഒടുവിൽ പറഞ്ഞ മൂന്നുപേരും ഇന്നു് ജീവിച്ചിരിപ്പില്ല. എനിക്കു് വായനയിൽ അഭിരുചി വളർത്തിയവരാണു് ഇവർ മൂന്നുപേരും. (പുതുപ്പള്ളി രാഘവനെപ്പററിയും ഓർക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. എവിടെയെങ്കിലും നിന്നു് നല്ല പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ കരസ്ഥമാക്കി അദ്ദേഹം എനിക്കു കൊണ്ടുതരുമായിരുന്നു. മാക്സിം ഗോർക്കിയുടെ 'മദർ' എനിക്കു് ആദ്യം തന്നതു് പുതുപ്പള്ളിയാണു്. അന്നു് ലൈബ്രറികളിലെങ്ങും കിട്ടാനില്ലാതിരുന്ന ആ പുസ്തകം, ഏതോ ഒരു കത്തോലിക്കാ സ്ഥാപനത്തിൽനിന്നു് തട്ടിയെടുത്തു് അദ്ദേഹം കൊണ്ടുവന്നതായിരുന്നു എന്നാണെൻെറ ഓർമ്മ. അതു നിൽക്കട്ടെ.) പരേതരായ ആ സുഹൃത്തുക്കളിൽ, പൊന്നറ ശ്രീധർ തിരുവനന്തപുരം പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയിലെ ഒരു 'സ്ഥിരം' അംഗമായിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹമാണു് എന്നെ ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിലേക്കാകർഷിച്ചതു്.

അന്നുമുതൽ ഇന്നുവരെ ഞാൻ പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറിയിലെ അംഗമാണു്. പഠിച്ച പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളേക്കാൾ, കോളേജുകളേക്കാൾ, ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തോടു് എനിക്കു കടപ്പാടുണ്ടു്. മഹാരാജാക്കന്മാരും, ദിവാൻജിമാരും, മററു വലിയ ആളുകളും സ്നേഹിച്ചു വളർത്തിയ ഈ സ്ഥാപനം ഇന്നു് വേണ്ടവിധം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കപ്പെടുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് ജനകീയ സംവിധാനത്തിൻെറ ഒരു പോരായ്മയായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ നല്ല സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ അതിനെപ്പററിയൊന്നും കൂടുതൽ പറയാൻ ഞാനാഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇതു് മഹത്തായ ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമാണു്. മറെറാരു ലൈബ്രറിയിലും ലഭ്യമാകാത്ത അപൂർവ്വ ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളും ഇവിടെയുണ്ടു്. അവ വേണ്ടവണ്ണം സൂക്ഷിക്കാനും ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താനും നമുക്കു കഴിയുന്നില്ല. നാശോന്മുഖമായ ഒരു പഴയ തറവാടിൻെറ ശോകാത്മകത ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിൻെറ അന്തരീക്ഷത്തെ മ്ളാനമാക്കുന്നതുപോലെ എനിക്കു് തോന്നാറുണ്ടു്. അതു് ഹൃദയഭേദകമാണു്. ഈ ശോച്യാവസ്ഥ മാറണം; മാററണം. ഗവണ്മെൻറുൾപ്പെടെ എല്ലാവരുടെയും ചിന്ത ആ വഴിക്കു് തിരിയണം. ഈ മഹാസ്ഥാപനം, അതിൻെറ ശതാബ്ദി ആഘോഷിക്കുന്നതു് കൂടുതൽ ആശാവഹമായ സാഹചര്യങ്ങളിലായിരിക്കട്ടെ എന്നാശംസിക്കുന്നു.

വലിയ ആളുകൾ സ്നേഹിച്ചുവളർത്തിയ ഈ ലൈബ്രറി ഇന്നത്തെ ജനകീയ സംവിധാനത്തിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കപ്പെടുന്നില്ല.



BOOKS
AND
NEWSPAPERS

THE VERY FIRSTS AND AWARD WINNERS

മഴവില്ലും മഴയും

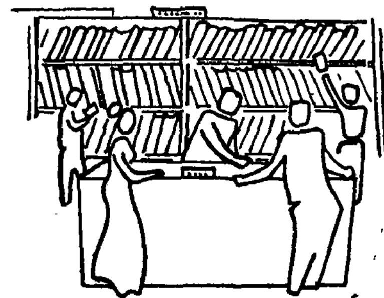
ഗൌരവം, വ്യാപ്തി, പ്രയോജനം, വ്യക്തിയുടെയും സമൂഹത്തിന്റെയും ജീവിതത്തിൽ ചെലുത്താൻ കഴിയുന്ന ഉത്തുംഗമായ നിഗ്രഹാനുഗ്രഹശക്തികൾ, ഇങ്ങനെ ഏതു പ്രകാരത്തിൽ നോക്കിയാലും കാല്പനികശാഖയ്ക്കു വൈജ്ഞാനിക ശാഖയുടെ സമസ്ഥാനത്തല്ല, സമീപസ്ഥാനത്തുപോലും നിൽക്കാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമാകുകയില്ല. ഞാൻ ഒരു ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞനല്ല. കൂടുതൽ പരിചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് കാവ്യശാഖയോടാണു്. പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും ആ ശാഖയിലാണു്. ഗ്രന്ഥസമ്പത്തിൽ ഒരു ശാഖമാത്രം വിട്ടുതരാം, ഒന്നേ വിട്ടുതരൂ, ഏതു വേണം, എന്നു ചോദിച്ചാൽ ഞാൻ പറയും, സങ്കടത്തോടുകൂടിയായിരിക്കും പറയുക, പക്ഷേ പറയുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യും, വൈജ്ഞാനികശാഖമതിയെന്നു്. എന്റെ ഹൃദയബന്ധവും പക്ഷപാതവും എത്ര പുറകോട്ടു പിടിച്ചാലും, യാഥാർത്ഥ്യബോധവും സത്യസന്ധതയും അനുശാസിക്കുന്നതു് അങ്ങനെയാണു്. കാവ്യസമുച്ചയം ആകെ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട ലോകത്തിൽ ജീവിതം വിരസവും ശുഷ്കവുമാണു്. പക്ഷേ ജീവിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. വൈദ്യശാസ്ത്രമോ, എൻജിനീയറിങ്ങോ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം ഇല്ലാതായ ലോകത്തിൽ ആധുനിക മനുഷ്യനു് ജീവിക്കാനല്ല, അങ്ങനെ ഒരു അനാഗരികലോകം സങ്കല്പിക്കാൻ പോലും സാധിക്കയില്ല. കാവ്യശാഖയും വൈജ്ഞാനികശാഖയും തമ്മിൽ പൂവും കായും തമ്മിലുള്ള വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടു്. മഴവില്ലും മഴയും തമ്മിലുള്ള വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടു്.

കൈനിക്കര എം. പത്മനാഭപിള്ള

മഹാക്ഷേത്രം

നല്ലൊരു ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിൽ കടന്നുചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ ഒരു മഹാക്ഷേത്രത്തിൽ ആരാധനക്കു ചെല്ലുമ്പോഴുള്ള അനുഭൂതിയാണു് ഉദിക്കുന്നതു്. ദീപാരാധനയും, നാഗസ്വരവും, ശംഖൊലിയും, മണിനാദവും, ശീവേലിയും, എഴുന്നള്ളിപ്പും ഒന്നും ഈ ക്ഷേത്രത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകാറില്ല. എന്നാലും ഉണ്ടു്, ഈ ലോകത്തിലെ മഹാചിന്തകന്മാർ, കലാകാരന്മാർ, അവരുടെ ആത്മാവിൽ നിന്നും അടർത്തെടുത്തു പ്രതിഷ്ഠിച്ച ദിവ്യ വിഗ്രഹങ്ങളുടെ മുമ്പിൽ എത്ര എത്ര ഹൃദയദീപങ്ങൾ കൊളുത്തി എത്ര നീരാജനം നിത്യവും നടത്താറില്ല! യുഗയുഗാന്തരങ്ങളുടെ സീമകളെ ഭേദിച്ചു് ചിന്താശീലന്മാരുടെ ഹൃദയനഭസ്സുകളിൽ വന്നലയ്ക്കുന്ന തത്ത്വാന്വേഷികളുടെ മംഗള ശംഖനാദങ്ങൾ എത്രകണ്ടു മുഴങ്ങാറില്ല! പ്രപഞ്ചത്തിലെ സൌന്ദര്യം കണ്ടു് ആനന്ദിച്ചു തുള്ളിച്ചാടുന്ന കലാകുശലന്മാരുടെ മൃദുലഹസിതത്തിന്റെ മണിനാദങ്ങൾ അന്തഃശ്രുതികളിൽ എത്രയെത്ര കിലുങ്ങാറില്ല! ഇടയ്ക്കിടക്കു് ജീവിതത്തിൽ വീഴുന്ന ഇരുളിലും അഴലിലും അമർന്നു പോകാതെ, മനുഷ്യചേതനയുടെ ഉള്ളിൽനിന്നും ഉദിച്ചുപൊങ്ങുന്ന കിരണ കോടികൾ കൊണ്ടു് മനോമോഹനമായ പരിവേഷം ചാർത്തി വിശ്വാർച്ചനയ്ക്കു് കാഴ്ചവയ്ക്കുന്ന ദേവതാ ബിംബങ്ങളുടെ ശിവബലിപ്രദക്ഷിണങ്ങൾ എത്രയെത്ര നാം കാണാറില്ല! അങ്ങനെ ഭക്തിവിനയവിനമ്രമായ മനോഭാവത്തോടുകൂടിയേ വിശിഷ്ടമായ ഒരു ഗ്രന്ഥശാലയിൽ നമുക്കു കടന്നു ചെല്ലാൻ കഴിയുന്നുള്ളൂ.

എൻ. ഗോപാലപിള്ള



The First Printed Book

IN THE WORLD

Contrary to popular notion the 42-line Bible of which the Mazarin Library copy bears the rubricator's date of 1456 is not the first substantial printed book in the world. The credit perhaps goes to the Constance Missal (Missal is a book containing service of Mass for a whole year). The myth of the Bible being the first substantial printed book was dramatically demolished when the Peirport Morgan library traded a copy of the Bible for a missal. There is also a dispute as to who was the real printer of the 42-line Bible. It is generally believed that Gutenberg (1438-1498) was the printer. But a large number of bibilographers think that the Bible was printed by Johann first and Peter Schoeffer. Fust (1400-1466) was the founder with Schoeffer of the first commercially successful printing firm and finanacial backer of Gutenberg. Around 1450 Fust lent Gutenberg 800 guilders to complete his process of printing from movable type. Two years later a further sum of 800 guilders were advanced. In 1455 Fust sued Gutenberg for 2026 guilders of principal with interest and the judgement was in his favour. It is told that Fust was more interested in winning the possession of Gutenberg's invention and materials than in the recovery of his money. Schoeffer who was among Fust's witnesses in the law suit later became Gutenberg's foreman. Although it is true that Gutenberg had experimented with the process of printing books on a printing press with movable metal types, no piece of printed matter bearing his name is extant.

But Gutenberg's priority as inventor of western printing from movable types cannot be seriously contested. The unique features of his invention were a hard mould for precision casting of type in large quantities, a type-metal alloy with low melting point and quick, undistorted solidification, a press adapted from those used by paper-makers and book-binders at that time and an oil-based printing ink.

(A M P K)

IN KERALA

The history of the origin of book publishing in Kerala makes very interesting reading. Whereas the first book printed in Kerala was in a script other than Malayalam, the first Malayalam book was printed outside Kerala. To "Vedopadesam" (1577 or 1578) goes the credit of being the first book published in Kerala. The script used was the special Tamil then in vogue in the State. The first Malayalam book, "Samkshepa Vedartham" was printed in Rome in 1772. The author of the book was a foreign missionary called Clement who also designed all the types required for the printing of this book running to more than 200 pages. This was followed by a Bible, again published outside Kerala, this time in Bombay, in 1811.

It took nearly 57 years after the appearance of "Samkshepa Vedartham" for the first Malayalam book, again a Bible, to come out triumphantly out of a printing press in Kerala. The Press, C. M. S. at Kottayam, is still happily with us.

(A M P K)

The First Newspaper

IN THE WORLD

The first-ever newspaper in the world was a court gazette used for communication among officials of the T'ang dynasty (A.D. 618—906) which reigned in China. Between A.D. 960 aud 1279 it appeared at regular intervals aud had a wide circulation among Chinese scholars. It was then called *Ti-pao* (palace-report). This was, however, handwritten or printed from blocks. It began to be printed from movable type only during the reign of Zung Cheng (1628—44) of the Ming dynasty. However, the first newspaper that circulated among the general public in China appeared only in the 19th century.

The credit for bringing out the first regularly published newspaper using movable type should go to Germany. A file of the *Avisa Relation Oder Zeitung* published at Augsburg in 1609 is still available there.

(R K P)

IN INDIA

The *Bengal Gazette* or *Calcutta General Adviser,* which appeared on January 29, 1780, was the first newspaper published in India. It belonged to James Augustus Hickey and the paper began to be popularly known as 'Hickey's Gazette'. The paper was first barred from the post office and then seized by the Government because of the stringent attacks made by Hickey on the Government and on certain individuals.

Earlier in the 16th century itself printing from movable type had been done in the country. During the Mughal rule, written newsletters were in vogue.

The first journal in any Indian language was the monthly *Digdarshan* in Bengali which appeared in 1818 Its editor and publisher was J C. Marshman, a Baptist missionary. Soon the journal began to be published as a weekly called *Samachar Darpan.*

(R K P)

IN KERALA

If the first newspaper from Kerala, "Rajya Samacharam", made its appearance in June 1847, the first newspaper owned by the local people started publication in November 1848. While the former published by Rev. Gundert dealt with only religious matters, the latter, "Gnana Nikshepam", though devoted to religious propaganda, threw open its pages to informative articles as well. "Gnana Nikshepam" was published from Kottayam at the C. M. S. Press while "Rajya Samacharam" was started from Illikkunnu, near Tellicherry in Malabar. In 1847 Rev. Gundert started "Paschimodayam", a journal devoted to articles of general interest. Kottayam again was the birth place of "Vidya Samgraham". Published on behalf of the C.M.S. College, this journal is believed to have made its appearance in 1864.

(A M P K)

The First Printing Press

IN KERALA

To the C. M. S. Press at Kottayam, started by Rev. Benjemin Baili in 1821, goes the credit of being the first Malayalam Printing Press in Kerala. Even though the London Mission Press in Nagercoil, then a part of Travancore, was started in 1820, it lacked printing facilities in Malayalam.

The C. M. S. Press had its origin in the desire of Christian missionaries to have the Bible and other religious texts published in Malayalam from Kerala itself. Accordingly the first press from England was set up in Kerala in 1821. The Malayalam types were supplied by the Madras Government. But these types proved unequal to the task—both in quantity and quality. So Rev. Baili embarked upon a scheme for designing Malayalam types. He started his work with no better tools than some general ideas about printing technology gained from Encyclopaedia Britannica and other books and with the assistance of a local carpenter and two goldsmiths and succeeded in his mission. The Malayalam rendering of the Bible was also done by him.

(A M P K)

അവാർഡ് കിട്ടിയ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ

എം. പി. പോൾ പ്രൈസ്

മഹാകവി ഉള്ളൂർ	വടക്കുംകൂർ രാജരാജവർമ്മ	കഴിഞ്ഞ കാലം	കെ. പി. കേശവമേനോൻ
ന്റുപ്പുപ്പാക്കൊരാനേണ്ടാർന്ന്	വൈക്കം മുഹമ്മദ് ബഷീർ	എ. ആർ. രാജരാജവർമ്മ	എം. ഭാഗീരഥിഅമ്മ തമ്പുരാട്ടി & എം. രാഘവവർമ്മ രാജ
അന്തർദ്ദാഹം	ജി. ശങ്കരക്കുറുപ്പ്		
ശ്രീരേഖ	വൈലോപ്പിള്ളി		
സാമ്പത്തികാസൂത്രണം	സി. നാരായണൻ	ജീവന്റെ ഉത്ഭവവും ഭാവിയും	ഡോ. കെ. ജി. അടിയോടി
ജനന നിയന്ത്രണം	ഡോ. സി. ആർ. നാരായണൻ	ഗോപാലൻ നായരുടെ താടി	ഉറൂബ്
		കല ജീവിതംതന്നെ	കുട്ടികൃഷ്ണമാരാര്
നഷ്ടക്കച്ചവടം	സി. എൻ. ശ്രീകണ്ഠൻ നായർ	അരനാഴികനേരം	പാറപ്പുറത്ത്
തെരുവിന്റെ കഥ	പൊറ്റെക്കാട്ട്	ഇണങ്ങാത്ത കണ്ണികൾ	വിലാസിനി
നിണമണിഞ്ഞ കാല്പാടുകൾ	പാറപ്പുറത്ത്	വാരിക്കുഴി	എം. ടി. വാസുദേവൻ നായർ

കല്യാണി കൃഷ്ണമേനോൻ പ്രൈസ്

ആ മനുഷ്യൻ നീതന്നെ	സി. ജെ. തോമസ്	കയ്പവല്ലരി	വൈലോപ്പിള്ളി ശ്രീധരമേനോൻ
വിധിമണ്ഡപം	കൈനിക്കര പത്മനാഭപിള്ള		
കേരളം വളരുന്നു	പാലാ നാരായണൻ നായർ	പുരാണനിഘണ്ടു	വെട്ടം മാണി
ജ്യേഷ്ഠാനുജന്മാർ	ടി. രാഘവൻനായർ	വിവേകാനന്ദൻ	എൻ. കെ. ദാമോദരൻ
കേരളത്തിലെ പക്ഷികൾ	കെ. കെ. നീലകണ്ഠൻ	മരണനൃത്തം	എൻ. എൻ. പിള്ള
വിശ്വദർശനം	ജി. ശങ്കരക്കുറുപ്പ്	അർത്ഥവും അനർത്ഥവും	ഏ. പി. ഉദയഭാനു
അമേരിക്കയിലൂടെ	എൻ. വി. കൃഷ്ണവാര്യർ	സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ഒരു ഗീതം	വിഷ്ണു നാരായണൻ നമ്പൂതിരി
കുഞ്ഞോമന	ലളിതാംബിക അന്തർജ്ജനം		

എ. ഡി. ഹരിശർമ്മ സപ്തതി സ്മാരകം

രാഷ്ട്രപിതാവ്	കെ. പി. കേശവമേനോൻ	തൂക്കുമരത്തിന്റെ നിഴലിൽ	സി. എ. ബാലൻ
വിൻസ്റ്റൺ ചർച്ചിൽ	കെ. പി. ഉർമ്മീസ്	ഓർമ്മയിലെ നെഹ്റു	ഭാരതി ഉദയഭാനു
കണ്ണീരും കിനാവും	വി. ടി. ഭട്ടതിരിപ്പാട്		

സാഹിത്യപ്രവർത്തക ബെനിഫിറ്റ് ഫണ്ട്

അരനാഴികനേരം	പാറപ്പുറത്ത്	ആത്മകഥ	ഇ. എം. എസ്. നമ്പൂതിരിപ്പാട്
ഖസാക്കിന്റെ ഇതിഹാസം	ഒ. വി. വിജയൻ		
ഇണങ്ങാത്ത കണ്ണികൾ	വിലാസിനി	അഗ്നിശലഭങ്ങൾ	ഒ. എൻ. വി. കുറുപ്പ്
നാടകദർപ്പണം	എൻ. എൻ. പിള്ള	ഗാന്ധിയും ഗോഡ്സേയും	എൻ. വി. കൃഷ്ണവാര്യർ
രാഷ്ട്രപിതാവ്	കെ. പി. കേശവ മേനോൻ	ഭാഷാപഠനങ്ങൾ	സി. എൽ. ആന്റണി

കേരളസാഹിത്യ അക്കാദമി, തൃശ്ശൂർ

ഉമ്മാച്ചു	ഉറൂബ്	മലയാളപ്പിറവി	ഡോ. കെ. രാഘവൻപിള്ള
അഴിമുഖത്തേക്ക്	എൻ. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള	ഒരുപിടി നെല്ലിക്ക	ഇടശ്ശേരി
കളിയച്ഛൻ	പി. കുഞ്ഞിരാമൻ നായർ	മാലി ഭാഗവതം	മാലി
മലനാട്ടിൽ	കെ. കെ. രാജ	രാഷ്ട്രപിതാവ്	കെ. പി. കേശവ മേനോൻ
മുടന്തനായ മുയൽ	സി. എ. കിട്ടുണ്ണി	ആരോഹണം	വി. കെ. എൻ
മായ	കെ. സുരേന്ദ്രൻ	മാതൃകാമനുഷ്യൻ	കൈനിക്കര കുമാരപിള്ള
കാഞ്ചനസീത	സി. എൻ. ശ്രീകണ്ഠൻ നായർ	പ്രസിഡന്റിന്റെ ആദ്യത്തെ മരണം	എൻ. പി. മുഹമ്മദ്
തിരുവോണം	തിരുവല്ലാ കേശവപിള്ള		
ഒരു തെരുവിന്റെ കഥ	പൊറ്റെക്കാട്ട്	കലാദർശനം	കെ. എം. ഡാനിയേൽ
കയ്പവല്ലരി	വൈലോപ്പിള്ളി ശ്രീധര മേനോൻ	ഗാന്ധിയും ഗോഡ്സേയും	എൻ. വി. കൃഷ്ണവാര്യർ
		ആത്മകഥ	ഇ. എം. എസ്. നമ്പൂതിരിപ്പാട്
ആത്മാവിന്റെ നോവുകൾ	നന്തനാർ		
റയിൽപ്പാളങ്ങൾ	ജി. ശങ്കരപ്പിള്ള	ടോൾസ്റ്റോയി ഫാം	കെ. ഭീമൻനായർ
നാടുണരുന്നു	ജി. കമലമ്മ	തോറ്റങ്ങൾ	കോവിലൻ
ഒരു വഴിയും കുറേ നിഴലുകളും	ടി. എ. രാജലക്ഷ്മി	ബലിദർശനം	അക്കിത്തം

★ ബുദ്ധിശക്തിയിൽ
★ പ്രവർത്തനശേഷിയിൽ
★ അവകാശബോധത്തിൽ

നമുക്കു് ജീവിതഭദ്രതയും
സാമ്പത്തികഭദ്രതയും ആവശ്യമല്ലേ?

മാസംതോറും നൂറു രൂപമുതൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപവരെ
സമ്മാനങ്ങൾ നൽകിയും
നിങ്ങളുടെ നന്മയും നാടിന്റെ ഭദ്രതയും ഉറപ്പു നൽകിയും

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ഭാഗ്യക്കുറി

അതിന്നു് ഉത്തരം നൽകുന്നു.

ഒരു രൂപ മാത്രമാണു് മുതൽമുടക്കു്

ഡയറക്ടർ
സംസ്ഥാന ഭാഗ്യക്കുറി
തിരുവനന്തപുരം 695001

തൊഴിൽ അവസരങ്ങൾ!!!

ദാരിദ്ര്യവും കഷ്ടപ്പാടും വിധിയുടെ വിളയാട്ടമല്ല—
ഉദാസീനതയുടെ ഉടപ്പിറപ്പാണ്.

നിങ്ങൾ ഓരോരുത്തരും അവരവരുടെ കഴിവിനൊത്ത പരമ്പരാഗത വ്യവസായങ്ങളായ കൈത്തറി, കുടിൽ, കരകൗശല വ്യവസായങ്ങളിലും, ചെറുകിട, ഇടത്തരം വ്യവസായങ്ങളിലും ഏർപ്പെടുക !!

നിങ്ങളോടൊത്തു് സമുദായത്തേയും
രാഷ്ട്രത്തേയും സമ്പൽസമൃദ്ധമാക്കുക !

നിങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഏതു പ്രതിസന്ധിയിലും,
ഒരു വിശ്വസ്ത സുഹൃത്തെന്നവണ്ണം ഞങ്ങളെ സമീപിക്കുക!

വ്യവസായ വാണിജ്യവകുപ്പ് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണം

ഏണിപ്പടികൾ	തകഴി	കണ്ണീരും കിനാവും	വി. ടി. ഭട്ടതിരിപ്പാട്
നിറമുള്ള നിഴലുകൾ	വിലാസിനി	അഹല്യ	പി. ആർ. ചന്ദ്രൻ
പ്രേതലോകം	എൻ. എൻ. പിള്ള	ഉപഹാരം	ഡോ. കെ. ഭാസ്കരൻനായർ
മാണിക്യവീണ	വെണ്ണിക്കുളം	ലക്കിസ്റ്റാർ ടർലിൻഷർട്ട്	എൽ. എ. ജസ്റ്റിൻരാജ്
	ഗോപാലക്കുറുപ്പ്	കലിയുഗം	പോഞ്ഞിക്കര റാഫി
കല ജീവിതംതന്നെ	കുട്ടികൃഷ്ണമാരാര്	നാടക ദർപ്പണം	എൻ. എൻ. പിള്ള
നാലാം നാലുവഴി	പാറപ്പുറത്ത്	അഗ്നിശലഭങ്ങൾ	ഒ. എൻ. വി. കുറുപ്പ്
കുട്ടികളുടെ ഇന്ദ്രപ്രസ്ഥം	ഉമയനല്ലൂർ	ഉരുളയ്ക്കുപ്പേരി	മൂർക്കോത്ത് കുഞ്ഞപ്പ
വേരുകൾ	മലയാറ്റൂർ	പായസം	ടാറ്റാപുരം സുകുമാരൻ
അച്ചിങ്ങയും കൊച്ചുരാമനും	കോവൂർ	നക്ഷത്രങ്ങളെ കാവൽ	പി. പത്മരാജൻ
സ്വാതിതിരുനാൾ	കൈനിക്കര പത്മനാഭപിള്ള	പ്രളയം	ഓംചേരി
ഇസങ്ങൾക്കപ്പുറം	എസ്. ഗുപ്തൻ നായർ	ഈ ലോകം അതിലൊരു	
കാടിന്റെ കഥ	സി. എസ്. നായർ	മനുഷ്യൻ	എം. മുകുന്ദൻ
കഥാകവിതകൾ	ഒളപ്പമണ്ണ	ഉദ്യാനസൂനം	എം. പി. അപ്പൻ
അരനാഴികനേരം	പാറപ്പുറത്ത്	മറക്കാത്ത കഥകൾ	ഡോ. എസ്. കെ. നായർ
പാതിരാപ്പൂക്കൾ	സുഗതകുമാരി	സീത മുതൽ സത്യവതിവരെ	ലളിതാംബിക അന്തർജ്ജനം
പുലിവാൽ	വീരൻ	കുപ്പിക്കല്ലുകൾ	കര്യാക്കോസ്
ബലിക്കല്ല്	ഉണ്ണികൃഷ്ണൻ പുതൂർ	മുനി	പട്ടത്തുവിള കരുണാകരൻ
മോതിരം	കാരൂർ	ഖെദ്ദ	ജോൺ കുന്നപ്പള്ളി
ജൂ. ഡി. ക്ലാർക്ക്	പി. ഗംഗാധരൻ നായർ		

കേന്ദ്രസാഹിത്യ അക്കാദമി അവാർഡ് ന്യൂഡൽഹി (5000 രൂപയും താമ്രപത്രവും)

പാണിനീയ പ്രദ്യോതം	ഐ. സി. ചാക്കോ	കല ജീവിതംതന്നെ	കുട്ടികൃഷ്ണമാരാര്
ചെമ്മീൻ	തകഴി	മുത്തശ്ശി	ബാലാമണി അമ്മ
അയൽക്കാർ	പി. കേശവദേവ്	താമരത്തോണി	പി. കുഞ്ഞിരാമൻ നായർ
സുന്ദരികളും സുന്ദരന്മാരും	ഉറൂബ്	കാവിലെ പാട്ട്	ഇടശ്ശേരി
കേരളഭാഷാ സാഹിത്യ		കാലം	എം. ടി. വാസുദേവൻ നായർ
ചരിത്രം	ആർ. നാരായണപ്പണിക്കർ	ഒരു ദേശത്തിന്റെ കഥ	പൊറ്റെക്കാട്ട്
കഴിഞ്ഞ കാലം	കെ. പി. കേശവമേനോൻ	ബലിദർശനം	അക്കിത്തം
വിശ്വദർശനം	ജി. ശങ്കരക്കുറുപ്പ്		

ജ്ഞാനപീഠം അവാർഡ്
ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപയും വാഗ്ദേവിയുടെ പ്രതിരൂപവും

ഓടക്കുഴൽ	ജി. ശങ്കരക്കുറുപ്പ്

ഗുരുവായൂരപ്പൻ ട്രസ്റ്റിന്റെ ഓടക്കുഴൽ അവാർഡ്

തുളസീദാസ രാമായണം	വെണ്ണിക്കുളം ഗോപാലക്കുറുപ്പ്
തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത ലേഖനങ്ങൾ	എൻ. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള
നിമിഷക്ഷേത്രം	അക്കിത്തം

Some of the Principal Office-Bearers of The Trivandrum Public Library from 1900

From the beginning of the Library the Maharaja was the Patron, and, in later years, the British Resident of the time was the President. The Honorary Secretary was a Britisher, either a civilian or a military officer posted in Trivandrum.

From 1900 to 1921 the Resident continued as President; and the Honorary Secretaries were Professors La Bouchardier, Bishop, Hodgson, Sloss, Clark and Walker successively.

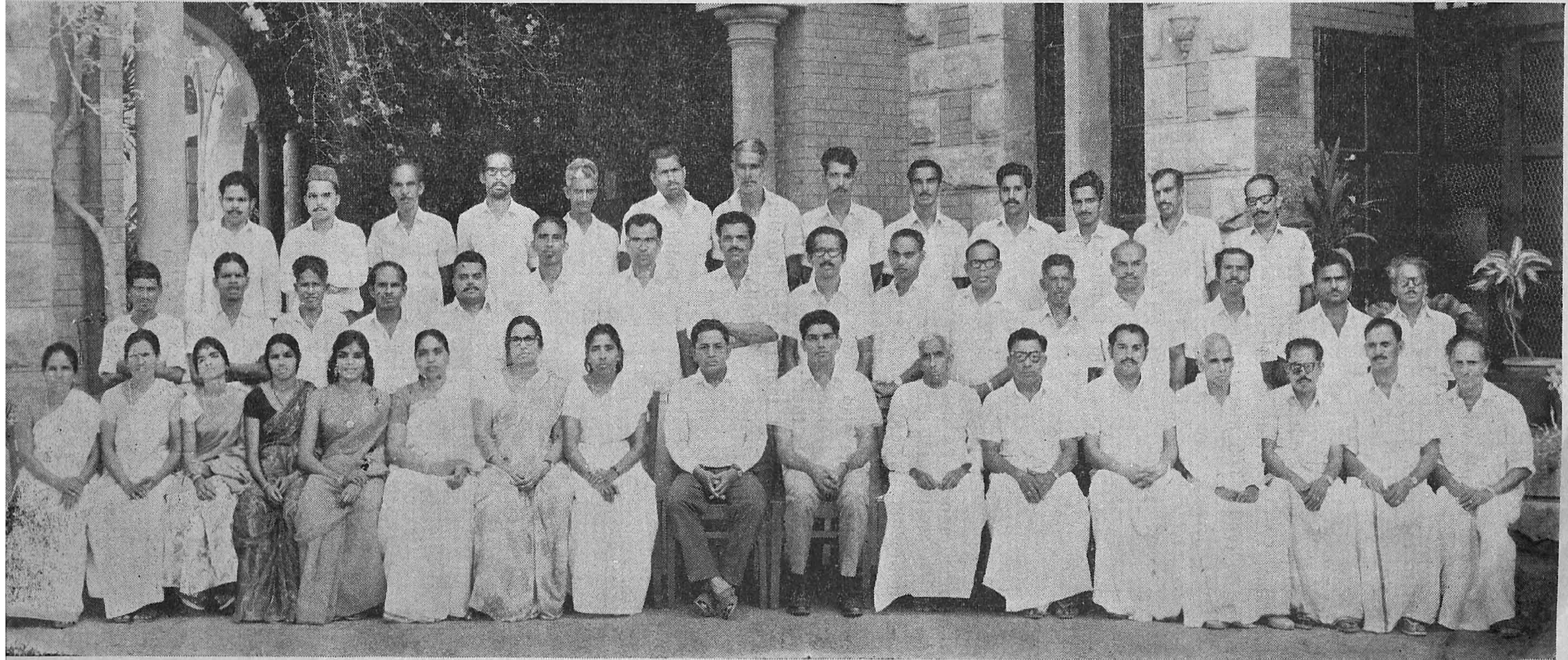
Since 1921 the following persons held the offices. However, this is not a complete list.

President	Hony. Secretary
Shri A. Govinda Pillai	*Prof. C. V. Chandrasekharan*
Shri E.J. John	*Dr. K.L. Moudgill*
Shri A. Venkat Rao	*Prof. P.G. Sahasranama Iyer*
Shri Ulloor S. Parameswara Iyer	
Prof. C.V. Chandrasekharan	*Dr. A. Sivarama-subramanya Iyer*
Dr. K.L. Moudgill	
Dr. H.C. Papworth	

President	Librarian & Convener
Shri Pattom A. Thanu Pillai Chief Minister of Travancore	*Shri Ramavarma Appan Thampuran*
Shri T.K. Narayana Pillai Chief Minister of Travancore—Cochin	*Shri A.K. Joseph*
Shri Joseph Mundasseri Minister for Education	
Shri P.K. Abdulla	

Director of Public Instruction	State Librarian
	Shri M.M. John
Shri N. Chandrabhanu	*Shri A.K. Joseph*
Shri Ramavarma Appan Thampuran	
Shri P.K. Umasankar	*Shri Clarence Thomas*
Shri A.K. Narayanan Nambiar	*Shri P. Vasudevan* (*Asst. Librarian-in-charge*)
Shri R. Ramachandran Nair	*Shri A.B. George*
	Smt. C. Savithri (*Asst. Librarian-in-charge*)
	Shri P.V. Varghese

OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE TRIVANDRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY 1973–74



rom Left: Ist Row: (SITTING) P. Kunji, B. Sumathy, B. Radha, K. Radha, S. Santhamma, T. K. Kamalamma, P. K. Leesal, K. V.Subhadra, P. Vasudevan, P. V. Varghese *(State Librarian)*, K. Soman Nair, S. Sukumaran Nair, P. A. Shoukathali, K. P. Gopalan Nair, K. A. Victal, P. Sivananda Panicker, P. Gopalan

IInd Row: A. Isac, A. Philipose, A. Chinnan, M. C. Palan, K. Ramachandran, G. Parameswaran Pillai, G. Krishna Pillai, Samuel John, S. Sreedharan Nair, A. Rajayyan, T. V. Varghese, N. Bhaskara Pillai, R. Padmanabha Pillai, S. Karunakaran, N. Thulaseedharan Pillai, G. Sudhakaran

IIIrd Row: N. Chandrabhanu, M. Ahamed Kunju, K. Kuttan, K. P. Purushothama Kaimal, K. Madhavan, V. K. Dandapani, N. Parameswaran Pillai, T. N. Raghavan, V. K. Krishnankutty Nair, P. Gopinathan Pillai, V. Rajasekharan, V. Chellappan Pillai, M. T. Mathai

There are people who read, and people who do not read.

"Do you read?"

"Not much. I leave that to the wife."

"Does she enjoy it then?"

"Says she does."

"Why is that d'you think?"

"Blowed if I know. Keep her out of mischief I suppose."

"What about yourself then. Why not sign the pledge and join the library?"

"I have n't got any time to read. Too many other things to do."

— *Borgia Lucrezia Low-Lope,*
P. T. Nalgo, Archibald C'rist
in "Public Libraries",
A Potty Little Guide

The public library should be the centre of the intellectual life of the area which it serves. That intellectual life covers all stages, from the incipient curiosity of those whose intelligence is only beginning to awaken to the advanced research of the highly trained specialist. The library has to serve not only the earnest seekers after knowledge, but also those who are merely gratifying an elementary curiosity and those who are seeking relaxation and recreation... The principle underlying the library services is that it exists for the training of the good citizen. It must aim at providing all that printed literature can provide to develop his intellectual, moral and spiritual capabilities.

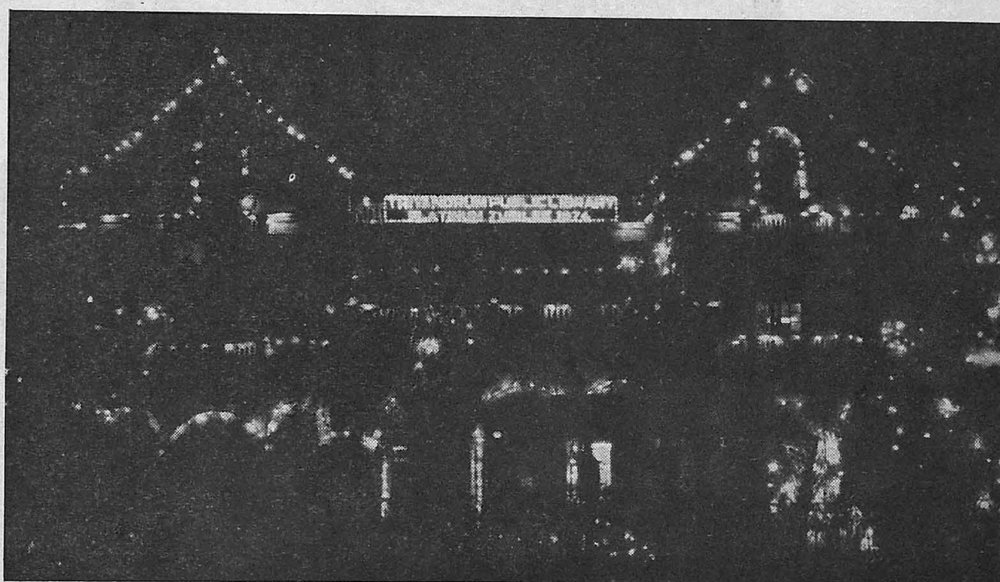
— Public Libraries Committee
Report (1927), United Kingdom



In Some Library Somewhere

Trivandrum Public Library

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



WREATHED IN SMILES: The week-long illumination of the Library building was a grand spectacle.

GLIMPSES

FIRST DAY :

Inauguration



WELCOME :
Prof. V.K.N. Menon
Member, Managing Committee, Trivandrum Public Library



REPORT :
Shri P.V. Varghese,
State Librarian



INAUGURAL ADDRESS:
Shri N. N. Wanchoo,
Governor of Kerala



PRESIDENT :
Shri M. K. Kumaran
Chairman, Kerala Public Service Commission



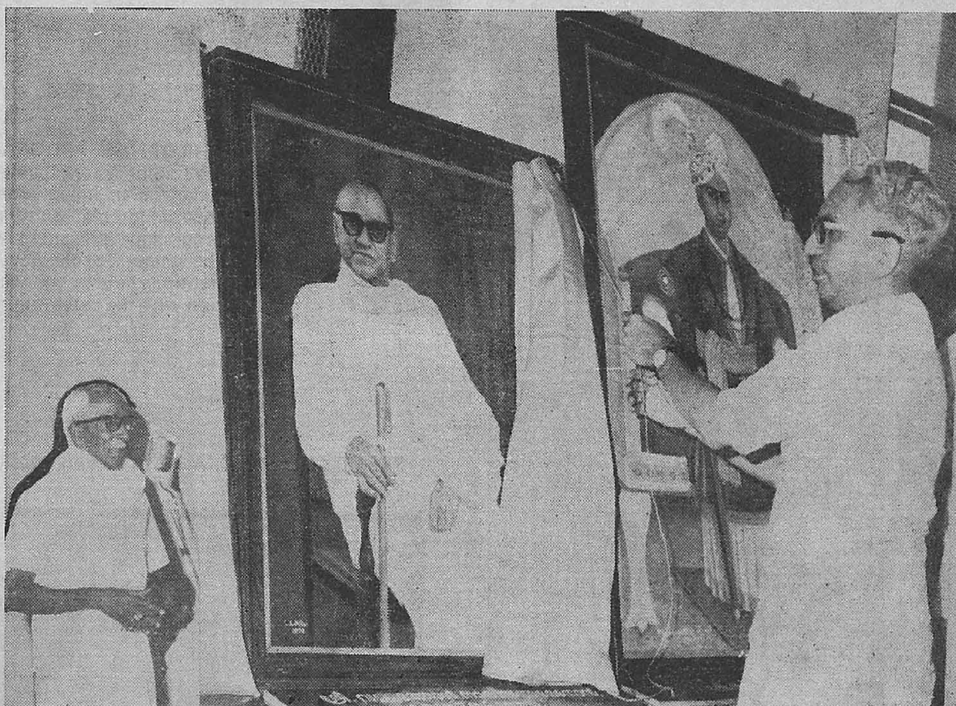
ON THE DAIS : *Left to Right*— Shri R. Ramachandran Nair, Shri M. K. Kumaran, Shri N. N. Wanchoo, Prof. V. K. N. Menon



THANKS :
Shri R. Ramachandran Nair, Director of Public Instruction

SECOND DAY:

Portrait Gallery and Readers' Forum

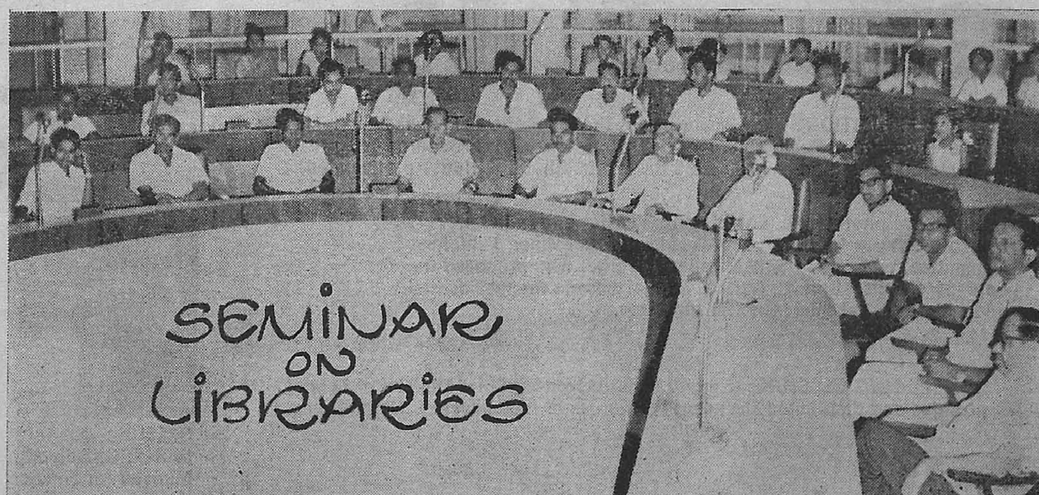


GALLERY OF TEN PORTRAITS: Shri K. Karunakaran, Kerala's Minister for Home and Information, unveils the portraits of Swathi Thirunal, Maharaja of Travancore, Founder of the Trivandrum Public Library and great composer of Carnatic music and of Kerala Varma Valia Koil Thampuran, O. Chandu Menon, C V. Raman Pillai, Irayimman Thampi, A.R. Raja raja Varma, Kumaran Asan, Vallathol Narayana Menon, Ulloor Parameswara Aiyar, and Sreekanteswaram Padmanabha Pillai

READERS' FORUM: A new forum for discussions, seminars and talks on books was opened by Shri M.K.Kumaran.

Extreme right: Shri A. J. Thampi, Member, Managing Committee, Trivandrum Public Library, proposes a vote of thanks. Shri R.Ramachandran Nair made the welcome speech.

AND A SEMINAR: Two sessions were held. At the morning session on "Periodicals" Prof. Samuel Mathai presided, Prof. V. K. Sukumaran Nair welcomed, Sarvashri K. P. K. Pisharodi, P.K. Parameswaran Nair and N.V. Krishna Warrior read papers and Shri P.N. Panicker thanked. At the afternoon session on "Library Movement in Kerala" Shri Kainikkara M. Kumara Pillai presided, Shri P. N. Panicker welcomed. Sarvashri P.T. Bhaskara Panicker and P. Ramanujan Nair read papers and Shri K. A. Victal thanked.



THIRD DAY:

Book Exhibition and Conclusion



BOOK EXHIBITION : Large queues saw the exhibition of books in which the Trivandrum Public Library, the State Archives Department, the State Institute of Languages, and the Prabhath Book House participated.

In the above photograph, **top** : visitors seeing the exhibits, **bottom : from left :** Shri P. Vasudevan, Convener, Exhibition Committee, welcomes ; Smt. Elizabeth George, who proposed the vote of thanks; Shri C. Narayana Pillai delivers the Presidential address; Smt. Lakshmi Menon inaugurates.

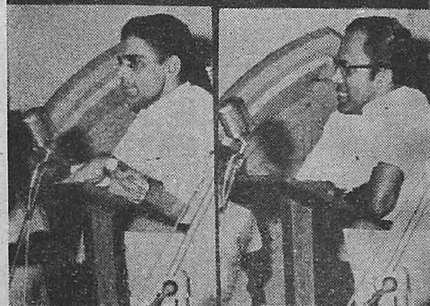
CONCLUDING SESSION : Shri C. Achutha Menon, Chief Minister of Kerala, presided and distributed the prizes to winners of the children's competitions.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME: Smt. Meera Sankaranarayanan inaugurates the children's cultural programme presented by the winners of the competitions held in connection with the celebrations

PRESIDENT : Shri C. Achutha Menon speaks





SPEECH : Shri K. G. Adiyodi, Minister for Finance, Kerala

THANKS : Rosscote Krishna Pillai, Member, Managing Committee, Trivandrum Public Library

Cultural Programmes :

THREE EVENINGS : V. J. T. Hall

A different classical art form of Kerala was presented each evening : Kathakali, Drama and Music Concert

First Evening : KATHAKALI (Kiratham)
Mankulam Vishnu Namboodiri (Arjuna),
PallipuramGopalan Nair (Kiratha)
Chirakara Madhavankutty (Kattalathi)
Sankaran Embranthiri and Hyderali (Songs)
Nambeesankutty (Maddalam)
Kalamandalam Kesavan (Chenda)





Second Evening: DRAMA (Dharma Raja)
based on C.V. Raman Pillai's novel of the same name
presented by Sri Chitra Thirunal Grandhasala Arts Club
Please turn to next page for details of Cast



Third Evening : Carnatic Music Concert
Pudukode Krishnamoorthy (Vocal)
Chalakudy Narayanaswami (Violin)
Mavelikara Velukutty Nair (Mridangam)

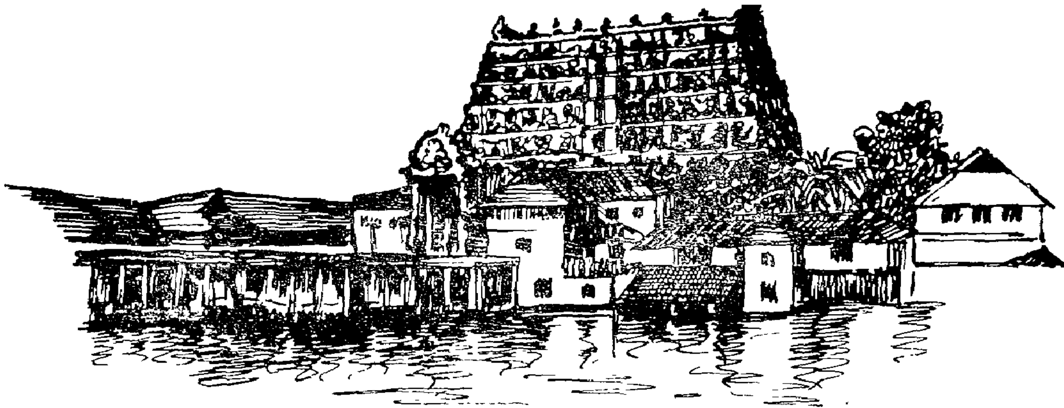
C. V.'s

DHARMA RAJA

CAST

Tripura Sundari Kunjamma	—	Usha
Meenakshi	—	Rukmini
Kuppassar	—	Kuriathi Neelakantan Nair
Chantrakaran	—	S. Natarajan
Ummini Pillai	—	Anandakuttan
Ugra Haripanchananan	—	T. R. Sukumaran Nair
Kesava Pillai	—	Rosscote Krishna Pillai
Ramayyan	—	Govindan Nair
Mama Venkitan	—	Muralidharan Nair
Kesavankunju	—	S. R. Mohan
Pavathi Kochi	—	Rajamma
Dharma Raja	—	Chengannoor Sankara Warrier
Padathalavan	—	P. K. Krishnan Nair
Santha Haripanchananan	—	Gopinathan Nair
Pakeersa / *Vridhasiddhan*	—	K. P. Ganesh

Direction :	T. R. Sukumaran Nair
Settings : & *Make-up*	K. V. Neelakantan Nair & Poojapura Ramu



SREE PADMANABHA SWAMY TEMPLE
A Tourist Attraction in Trivandrum

TRIVANDRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Shri R. Ramachandran Nair
Director of Public Instruction
President

Shri A.K. Narayanan Nambiar
Director of Public Instruction
(*President* upto September 8, 1973)

Dr. K.M. George
Chief Editor, Malayalam Encyclopaedia

Prof V.K.N. Menon
T.C. 24/290., Near the Central Stadium

Shri A J. Thampi
Ramachandravilas,
Vellayambalam

Dr. N.A. Karim
Lecturer, Dean of Student's Welfare,
University of Calicut

Smt Elizabeth George
City High School

Prof K.A. Isaac
University Librarian, Kerala University Library

Dr. P.G. Kurup
"Sushama", Vanchiyoor

Shri Rosscote Krishna Pillai
Editor, Yojana

Shri T. K. Doraiswamy
Link View, Golf Links Road, Kaudiar

Shri S. Varadachari
Deputy Secretary to Government
(Member up to November 28, 1973)

Shri N. Ramakrishnan
Deputy Secretary to Government
Education Department

Shri P.V. Varghese
State Librarian
Convener

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Patrons: Shri N. N. Wanchoo, Governor of Kerala
Shri C. Achutha Menon, Chief Minister of Kerala

1. Shri Chakeeri Ahmedkutty
Minister for Education
(*Chairman*)
2. Prof. V. K. N. Menon
Former Vice-Chancellor of Kerala and Patna Universities
T.C.24/290, Near Central Stadium, Trivandrum
3. Shri R. Ramachandran Nair
Director of Public Instruction, and President,
Trivandrum Public Library Committee
4. Dr. P. G. Kurup
"Sushama", Vanchiyoor
5. Shri Rosscote Krishna Pillai
Editor-cum-Senior Correspondent, Yojana,
Government of India
6. Shri T. K. Doraiswamy,
Golf Links Road, Kaudiar
7. Shri A J. Thampi
Ramachandra Vilas,
Vellayambalam
8. Dr. K.M. George
Chief Editor, Malayalam Encyclopædia
9. Smt. Elizabeth George
City High School
10. Prof. K. A. Isaac
University Librarian, University of Kerala
11. Dr. N. A. Karim
Dean of Students' Welfare,
Calicut University
12. Shri Veli Krishnan Nair
President,
Kadakampally Panchayat
13. Shri K. Sukumaran
Chairman, Kerala Kaumudi
14. Shri P. Govinda Pillai
Chief Editor, Desabhimani
15. Sri. P. N. Panicker
General Secretary
Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom
16. Shri Rajagopalan Nair
Secretary, Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom,
Trivandrum District Committee
17. Shri N. Ramachandran
Assistant Editor, Kerala Kaumudi
18. Shri C. Narayana Pillai
Indian Express, Thycaud
19. Shri M. K. Kumaran,
Chairman, Kerala Public Service Commission
20. Sri T. K. C. Vaduthala
Deputy Director, Public Relations
21. Prof. V. K. Sukumaran Nair
Head of the Department of Politics,
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